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松本次郎
原作・永井義男





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松本次郎
原作・永井義男

一撃必殺隊



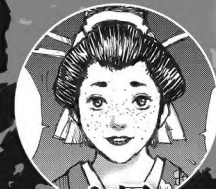
伊牟田

御用盗を取り仕切る薩摩藩士の一人。



前之助

薩摩藩士。伊牟田に可愛がられていた。



お園

井村屋の女郎の一人。

梅吉

上谷塚村出身

和三郎

大宮根村出身

千代松

伊賀村出身

栄吉

鹿骨村出身。丑五郎の弟分。並々ならぬ巨魁の持ち主。大豪漢。

勝海舟

旗本。百姓を組織化することを発案した。

和田六郎

元新選組隊士。島田とともに隊士を鍛える。



島田幸之介

元新選組隊士。一撃必殺隊の訓練を担当する。

仙太

月ヶ崎村出身。初陣で奮闘するも伊牟田の剛剣に倒れる。

新平

花又村出身

市造

土小岩村出身。侍への憧れが人二倍強い。丑五郎とは大猿の仲。

源治

小倉新田出身

これまでのあらすじ

時は幕末——大政奉還後江戸幕府との武力決着を望む薩摩藩は幕府を挑発すべく「御用盗」なる武装集団を結成、「攘夷の資金集め」を名目に江戸の商家を襲わしていた。薩摩藩と幕府の大規模な武力衝突を避けるべく、勝海舟は「御用盗」特殊戦闘部隊「一撃必殺隊」の戦闘員を農村の力自慢から選抜する。刀の握り方も知らない若者たちだったが、その比類なき身体能力と新選組仕込みの実戦剣術により、めきめきと実力をつけていく。そして初陣の夜、一撃必殺隊の面々は自慢の剛剣により御用盗を次々と斬り倒していったが……!?

丑五郎

東一之江村出身。小柄ながら抜群の身体能力を誇り、頭の回転も速い。

与吉

一撃必殺隊隊士の世話をする下男。

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CHAPTER 6 CASUALTIES

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO DODGE A
BLADE!

FLUCK!



IT WON'T
HURT THAT
MUCH...

MAYBE
IF I
STAY
STILL,



SFX:
Clang!
Woosh





HMM...



SHIMA-SAMA!

SHI...

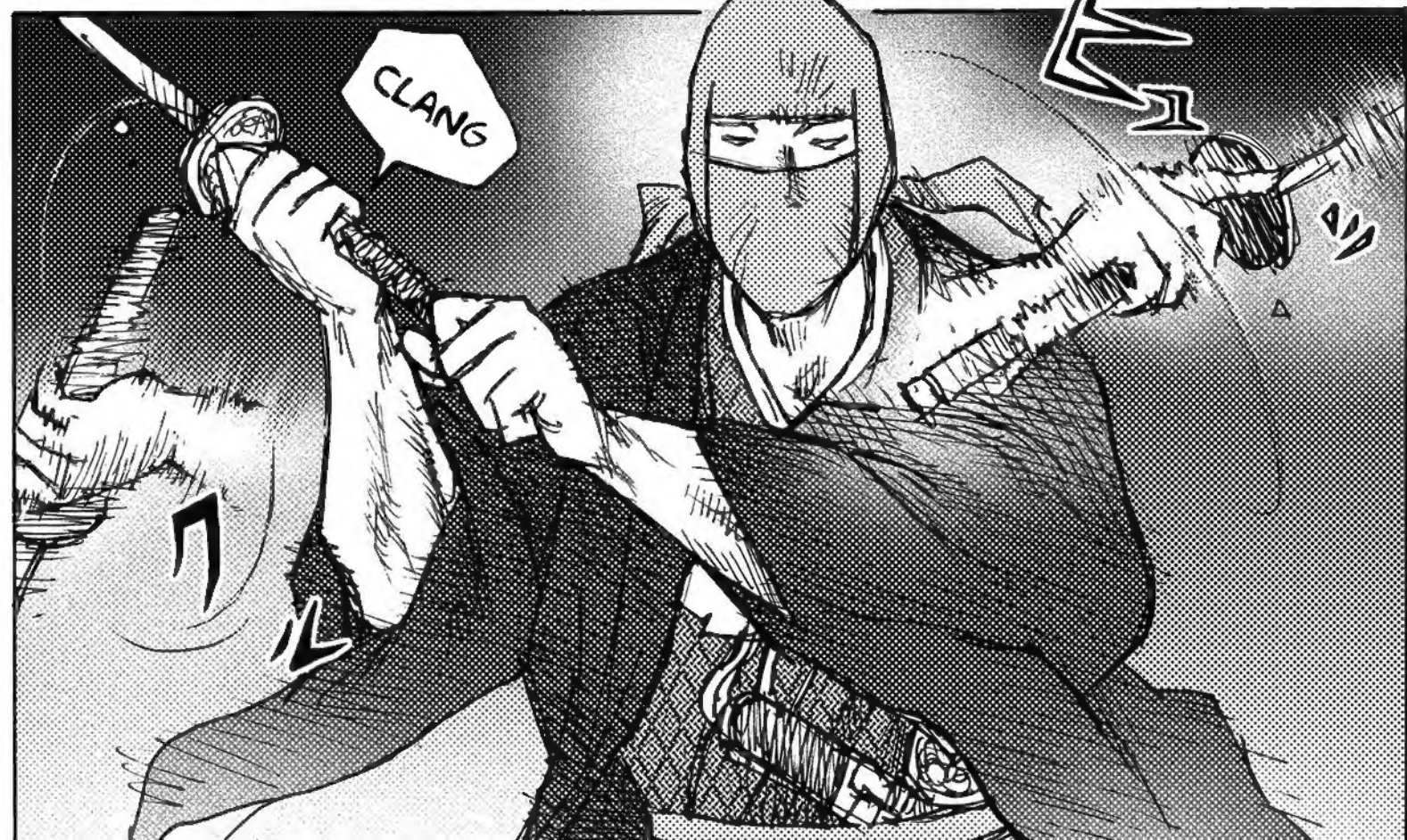
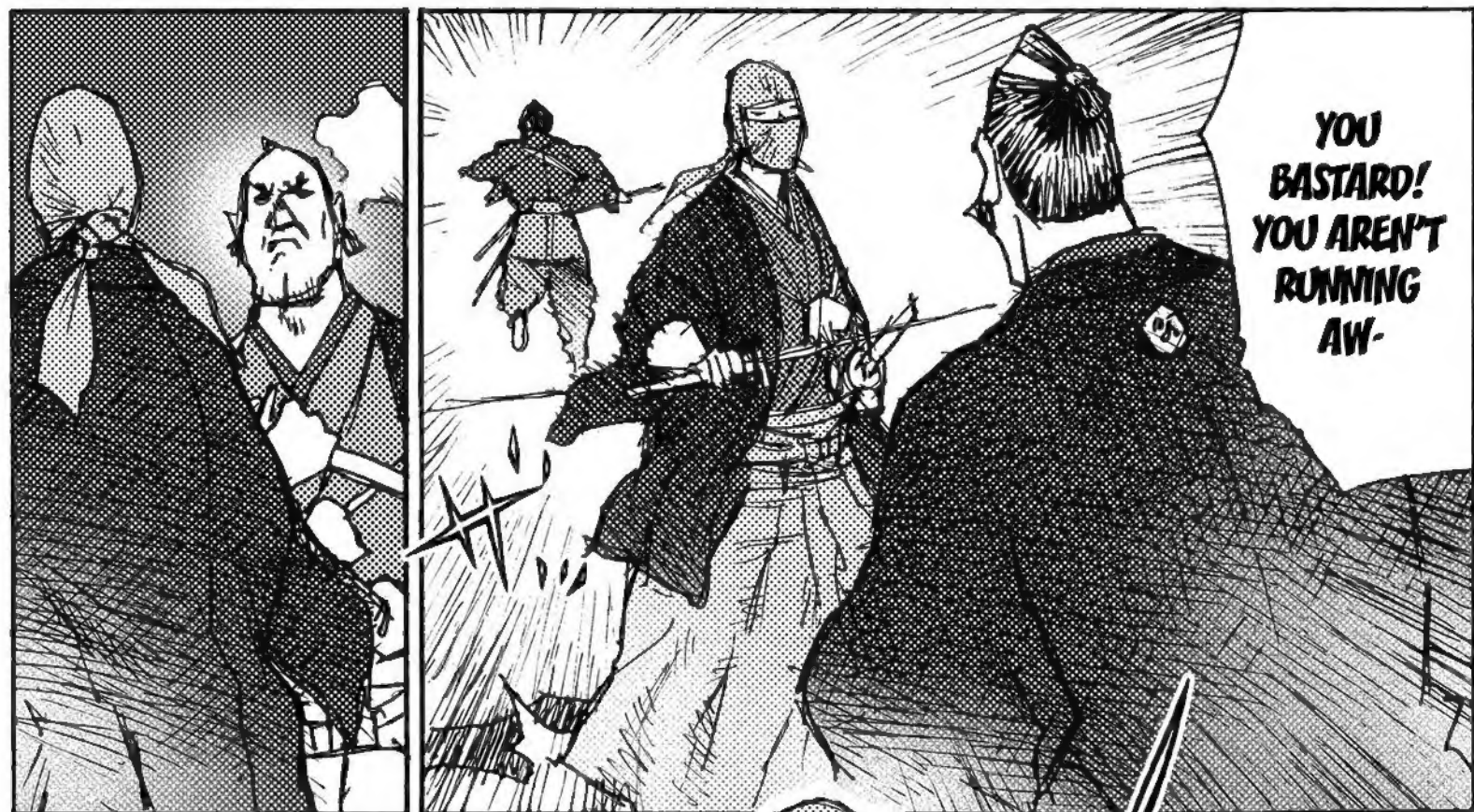
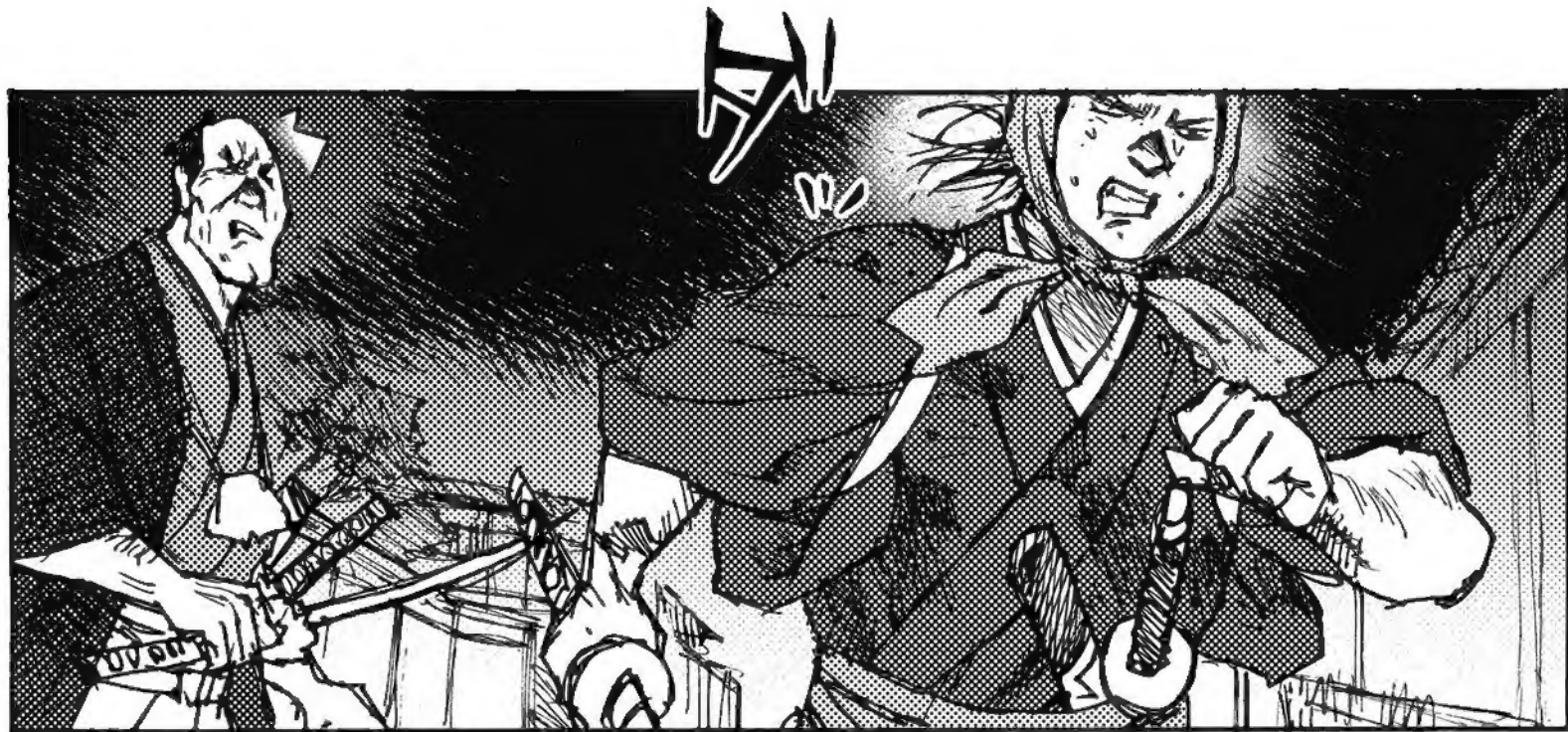


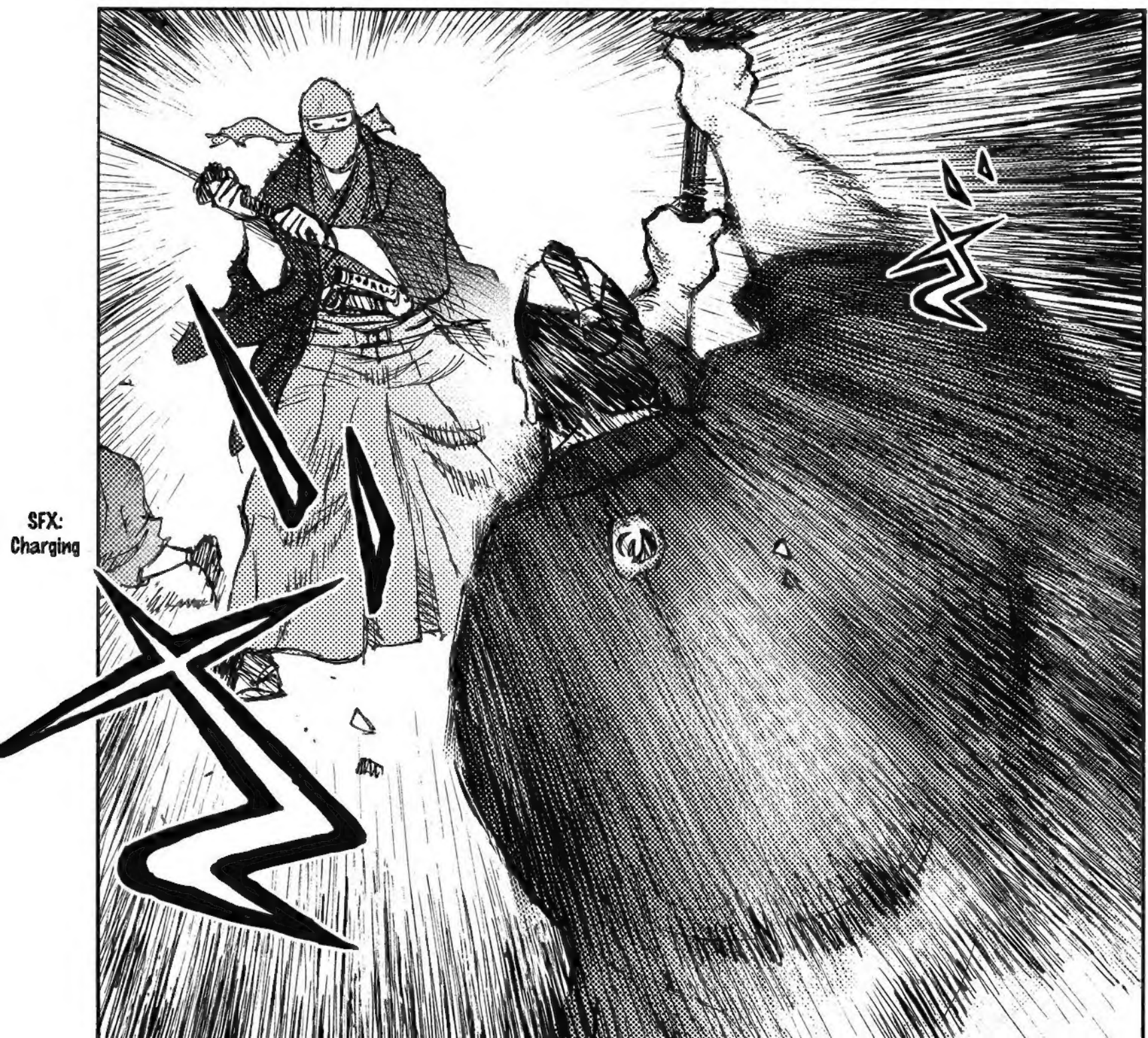
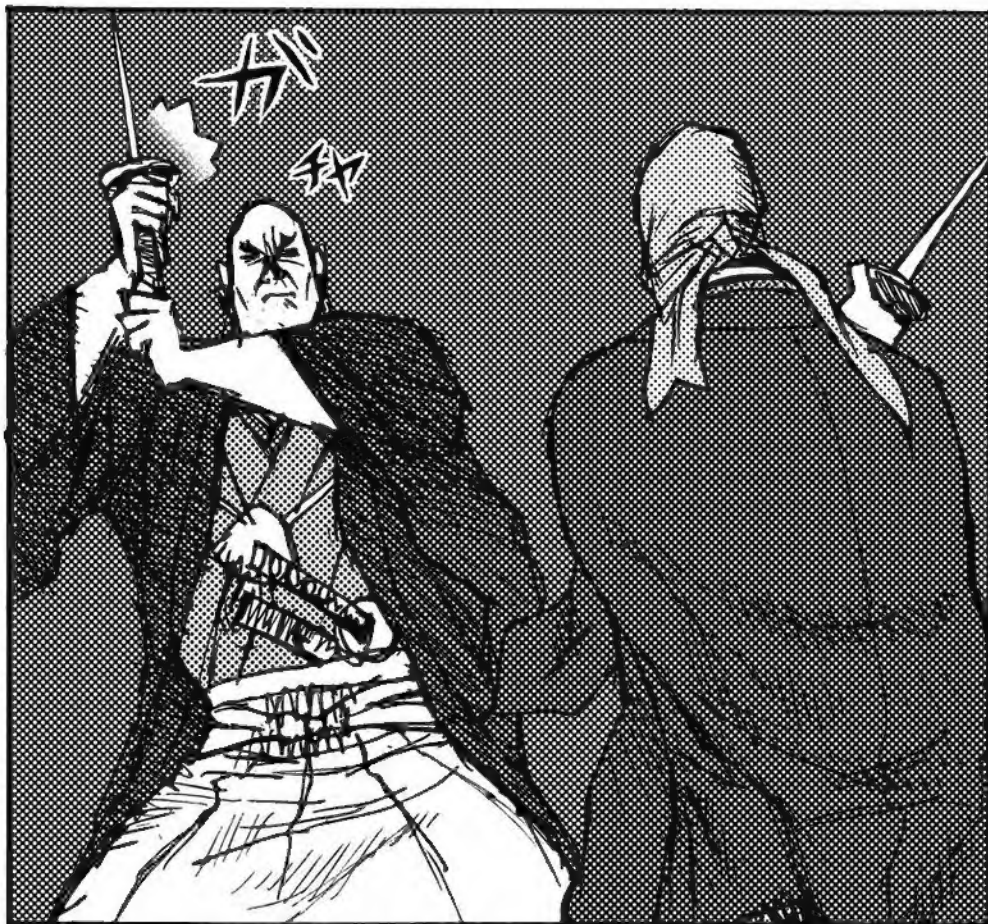
A...

**GET LOST
ALREADY!**

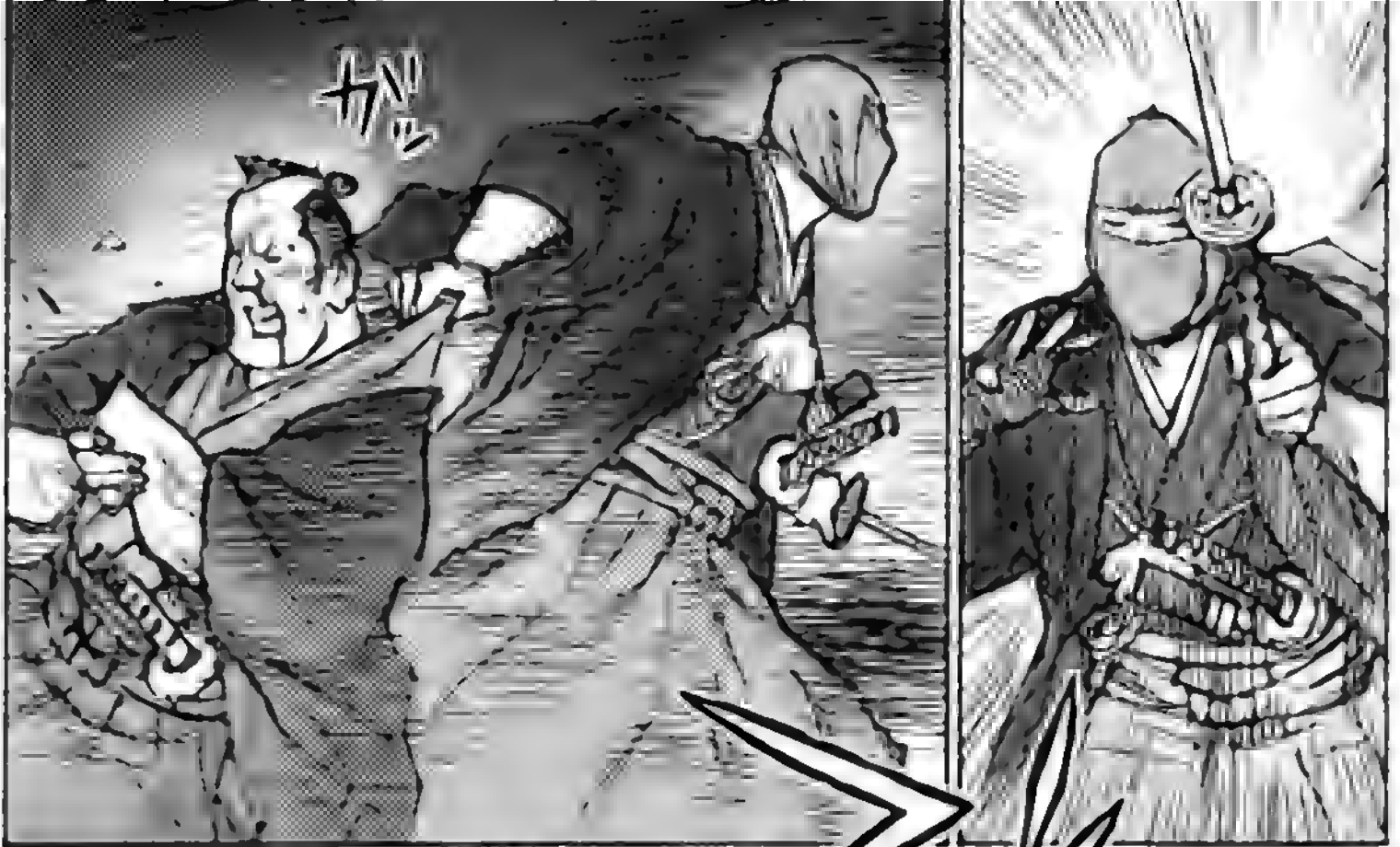
**WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING,
YOU
IDIOT?!**

AYE!





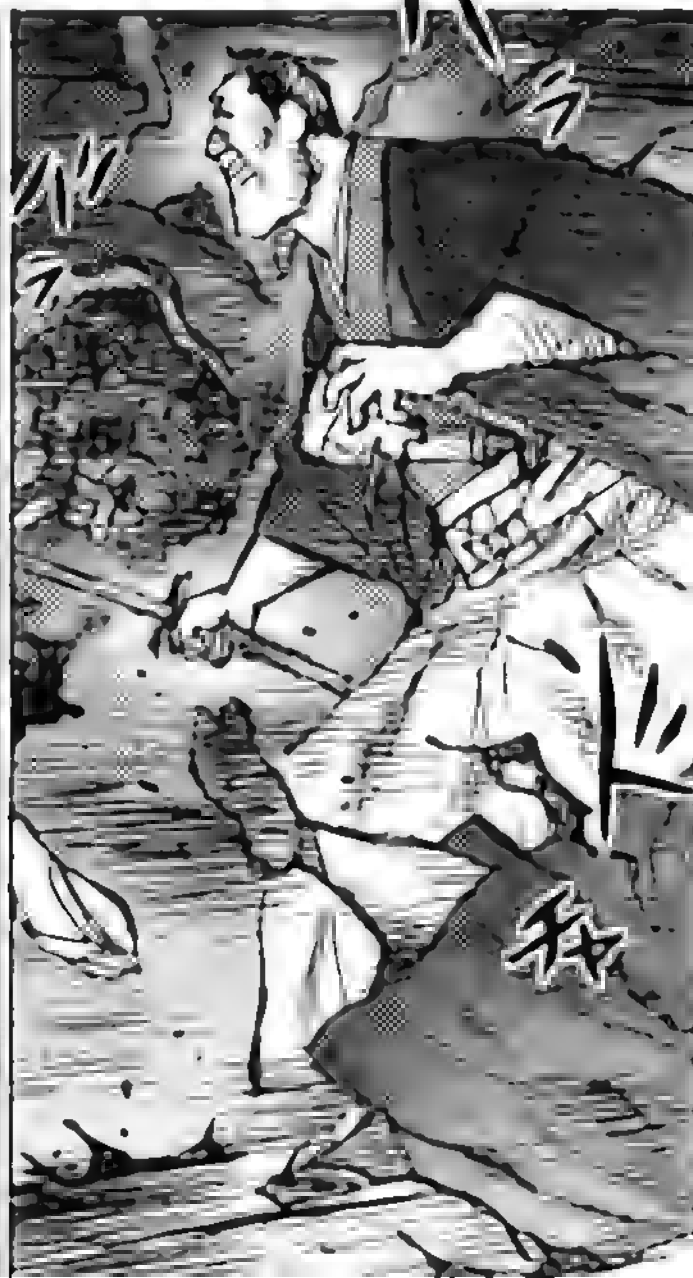
SFX:
Orab

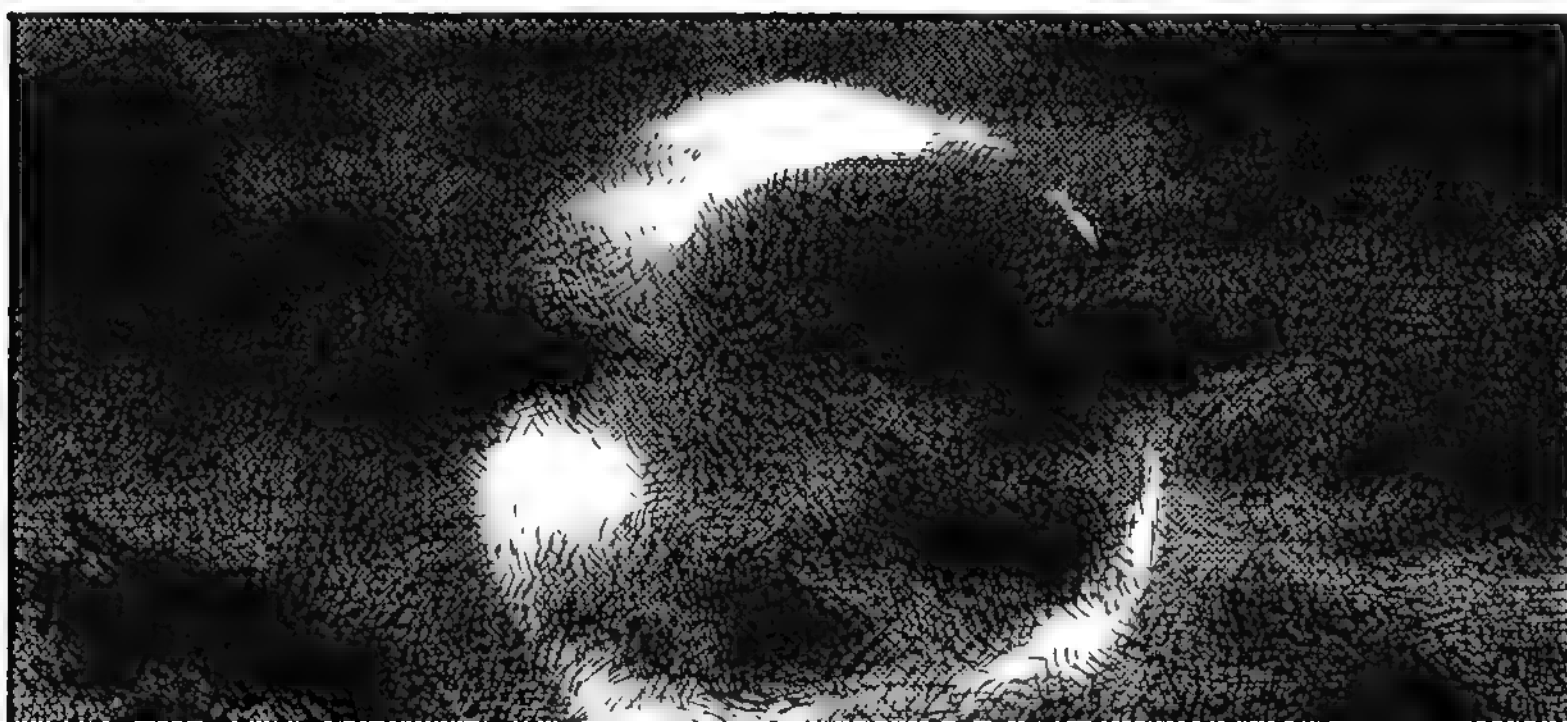


SFX:
Whoosh!

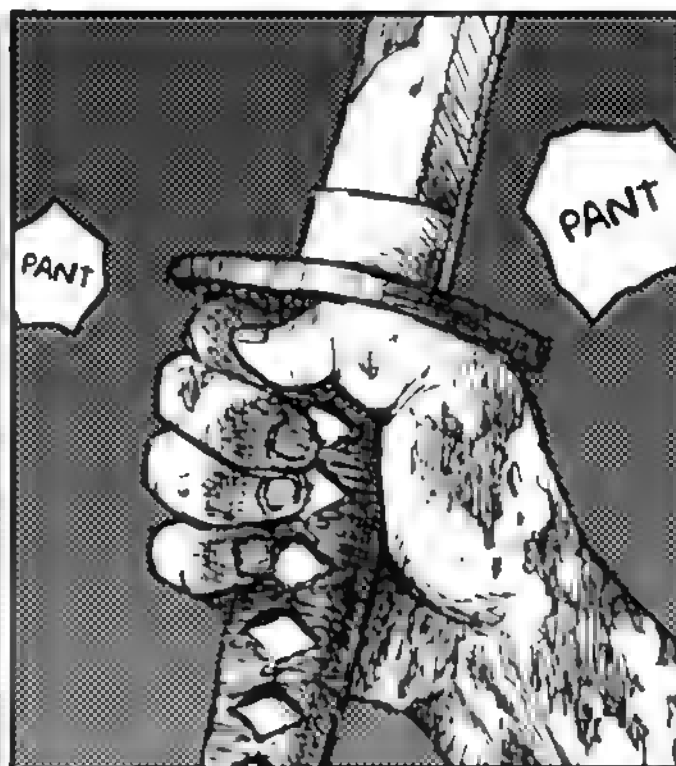
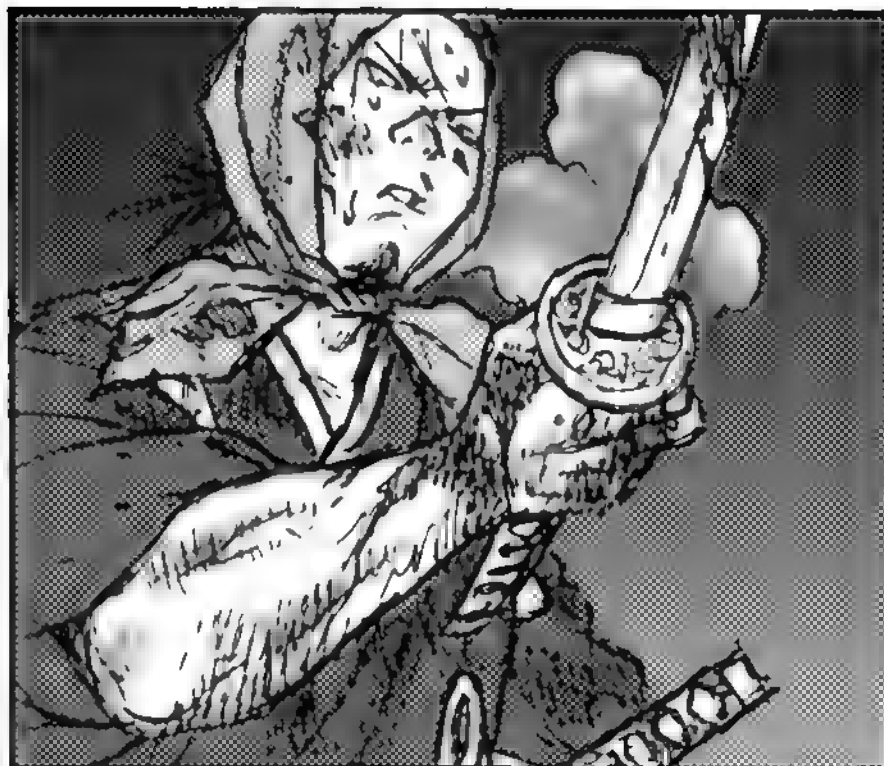


SFX:
Slice,
wham!





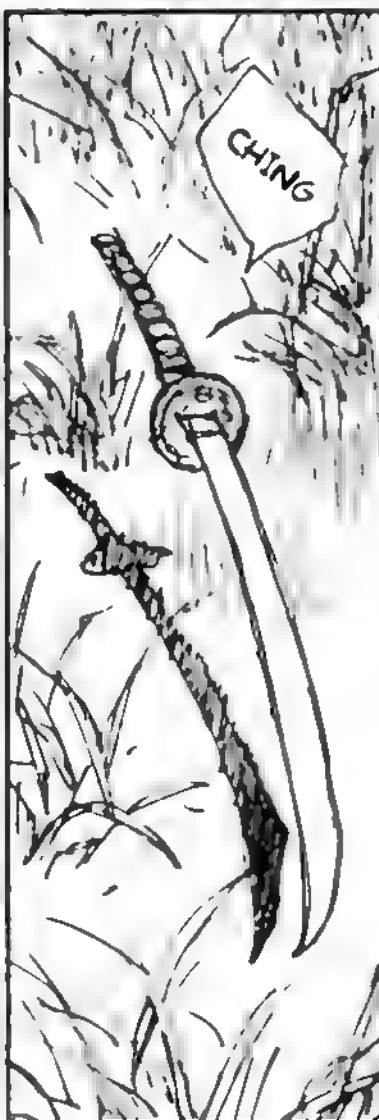




SFX:
Throwing
up.



SFX:
Splashing
rubbing







I HOPE
THEY DIDN'T
KICK THE
BUCKET.



DUNNO.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
OTHERS?



MY
BLADE
IS BENT.
I CAN'T
SHEATHE
IT.

THEY
MIGHT
HAVE
GONE
THERE.

WELL,
WE HAVE
OTHER REN-
DEZVOUS
PLACES AS
WELL...

WHAT DO
WE DO
NOW?



I CAN'T
MOVE ANY-
MORE!

WE
CAN'T
DO
THAT!



WE WAIT A
BIT LONGER
AND IF NO-
BODY COMES,
WE GO BACK
TO THE RESI-
DENCE.





I DIDN'T
HAVE TIME
TO COUNT!

TELL ME
HOW MANY
YOU'VE
KILLED!



WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

I CUT
AT LEAST
SIX MEN
DOWN.



BEATS
ME!

YOU
MIGHT HAVE
DRAWN FIRST
BLOOD, BUT
I KILLED
MOST OF
THEM!

BOTH OF
YOU ARE
AMAZING.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
YONEKICHI.

GUESS
I'M NOT
CUT OUT
TO BE A
SAMURAI.



I PISSED
MYSELF...

I WAS SO
SCARED...



IT'S
PRETTY
MUCH THE
SAME.

I WAS
PUKING
EARLIER
AS WELL.



WHY?

BUT YEAH.
IT REALLY
SMELLS LIKE
SHIT.



SHIT?
I PUKEO.
I DIDN'T
TAKE A
DUMP.

BUT
SOMETHING
SMELLS LIKE
SHIT...



I JUST
STRAINED
MYSELF TOO
MUCH THAT I
POOPEO A
LITTLE...

WELL...

I WAS BY
NO MEANS
SCAREO...

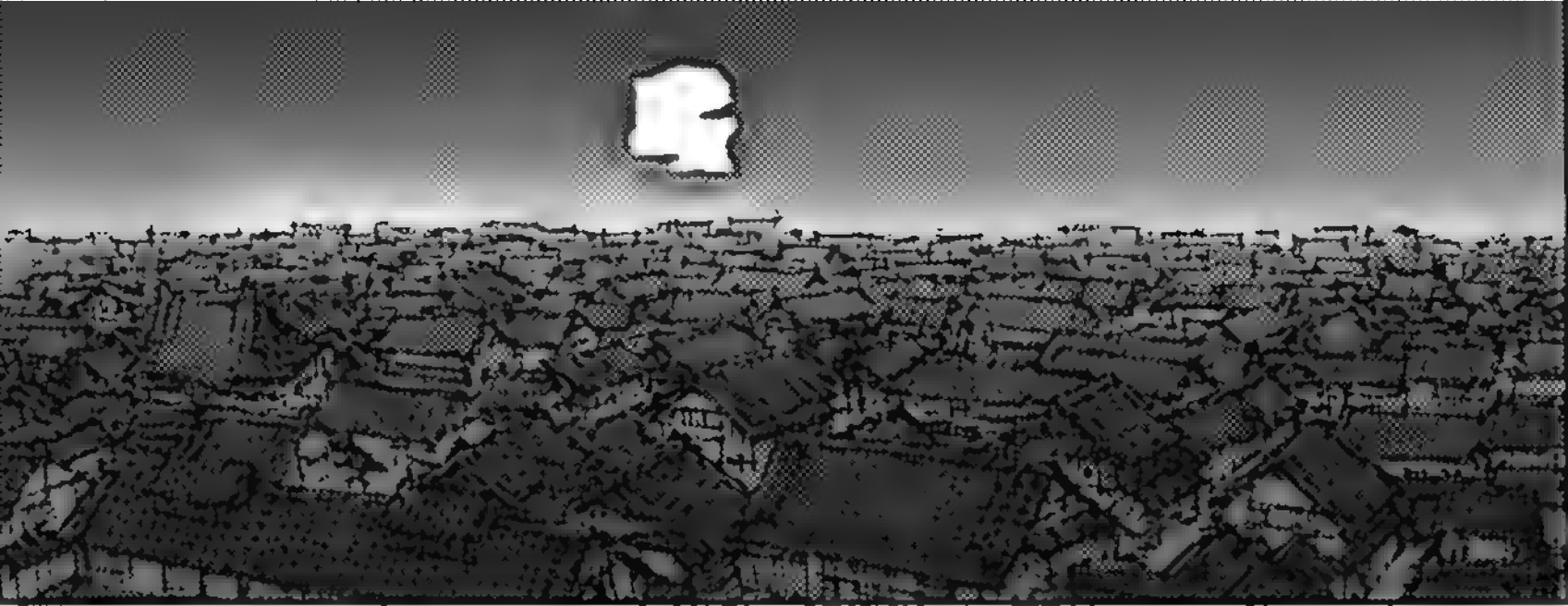
SFX:
Hmph



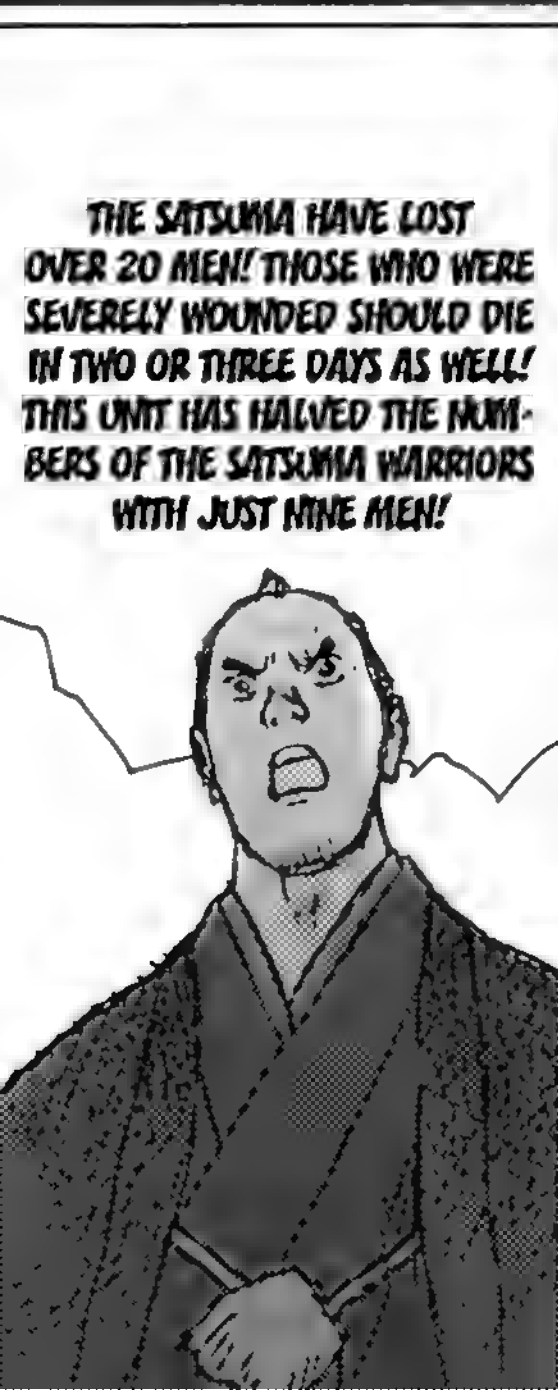
SHUT UP!
I MIGHT HAVE
SHAT MYSELF A
LITTLE, BUT
I KILLED SIX
PEOPLE!

FROM THIS DAY ON,
YOU'RE THE SHIT SAMURAI!
SHIT SAMURAI! SHIT
SAMURAI! SHIT
SAMURAI!

HEY, DID
YOU HEAR
THAT?! THIS
ASSHOLE
TOTALLY SHIT
HIMSELF!



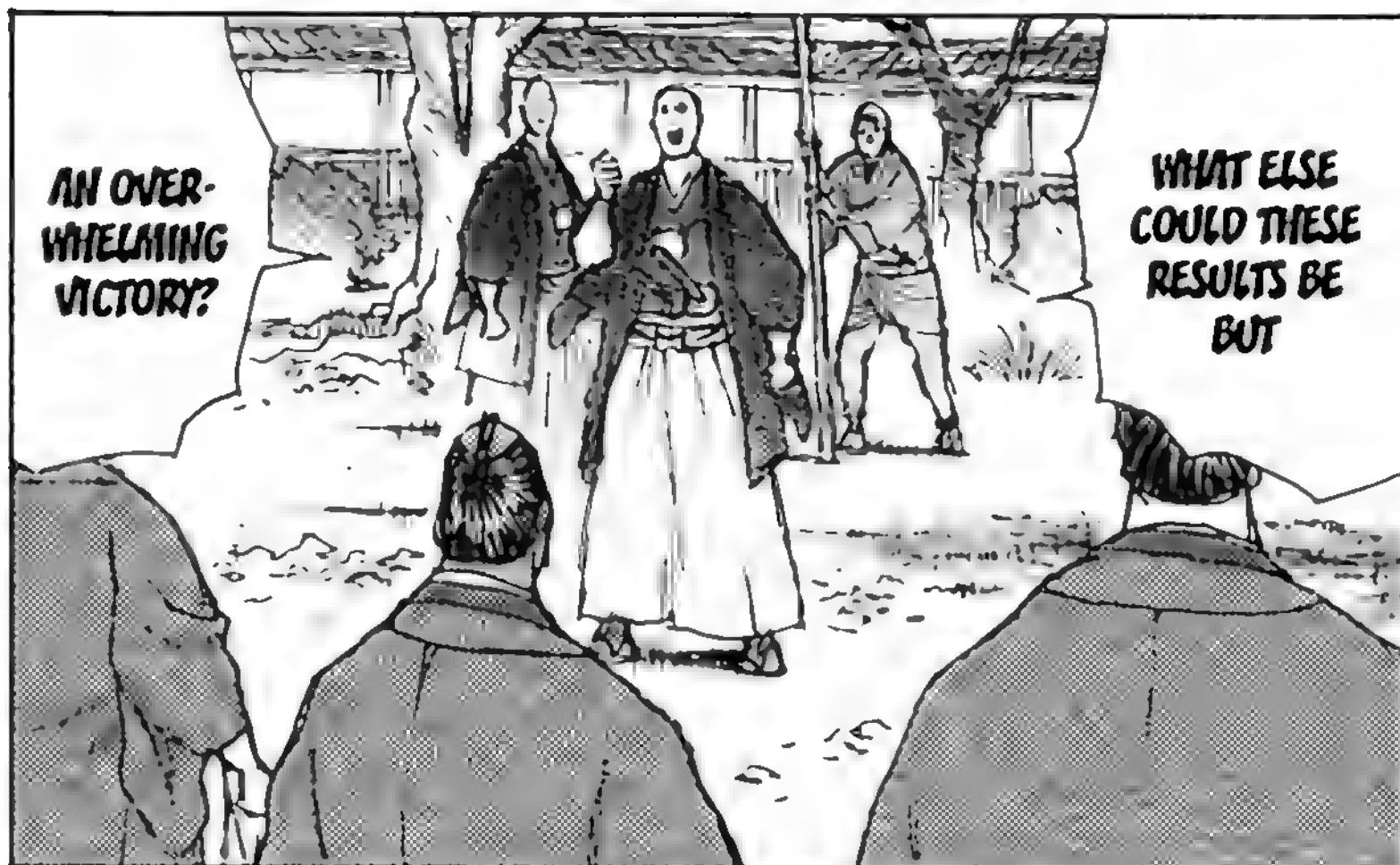
SFX:
Banner
flapping.



**THE SATSUMA HAVE LOST
OVER 20 MEN! THOSE WHO WERE
SEVERELY WOUNDED SHOULD DIE
IN TWO OR THREE DAYS AS WELL!
THIS UNIT HAS HALVED THE NUM-
BERS OF THE SATSUMA WARRIORS
WITH JUST NINE MEN!**



**IT WAS AN
OVERWHELMING
VICTORY!**



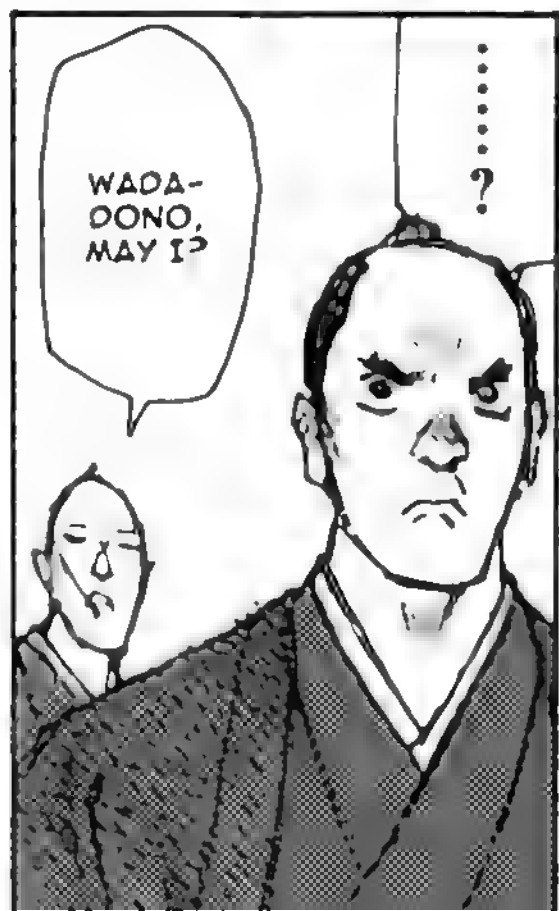
AN OVER-
WHELMING
VICTORY?

WHAT ELSE
COULD THESE
RESULTS BE
BUT



A SINGLE
LOSS!

AND WE
MERELY
HAVE



WADA-
DONO,
MAY I?

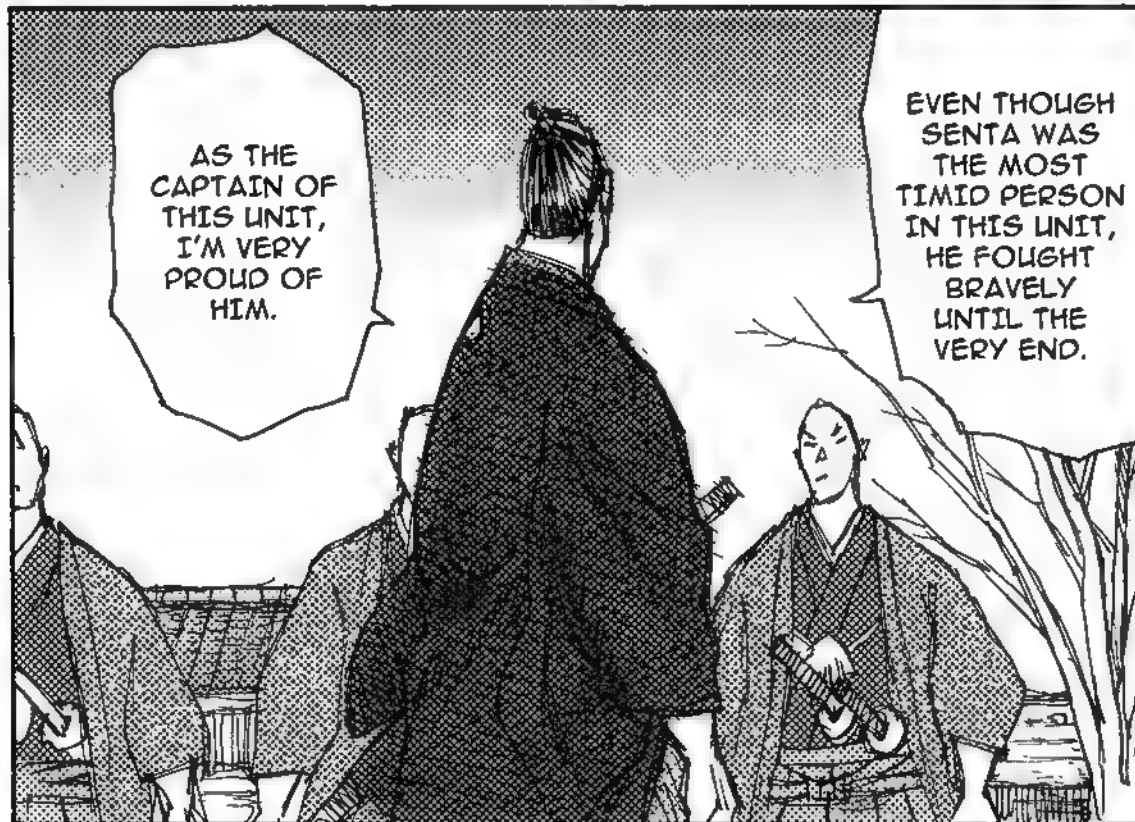
.....
?





IT WAS
SENTA.

AS YOU'RE
ALREADY
AWARE OF
THIS, WE HAD
A CASUALTY
ON THIS
MISSION.



AS THE
CAPTAIN OF
THIS UNIT,
I'M VERY
PROUD OF
HIM.

EVEN THOUGH
SENTA WAS
THE MOST
TIMID PERSON
IN THIS UNIT,
HE FOUGHT
BRAVELY
UNTIL THE
VERY END.



BY THE
TIME I
ARRIVED
TO HELP,
HE WAS
ALREADY
DEAD.



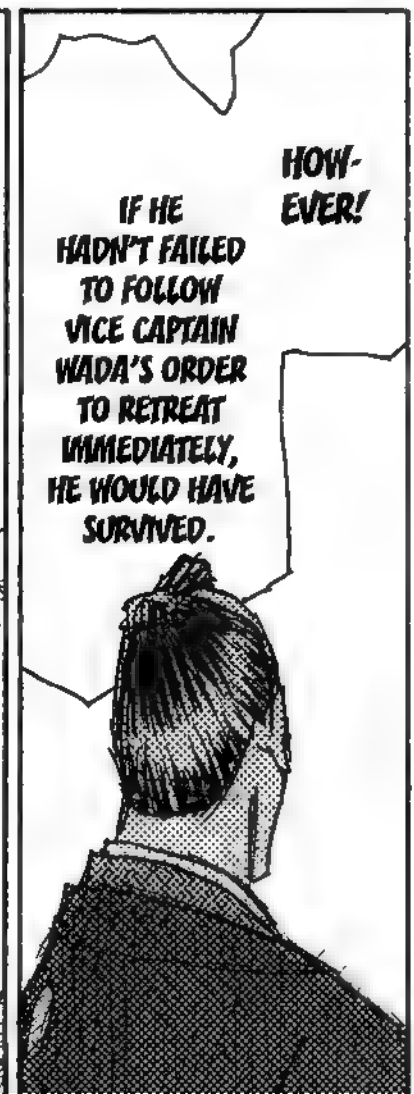
FROM NOW ON,
REGARDLESS OF THE
SITUATION, IF ANYONE
DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY
OBEY AN ORDER, HE
SHALL BE EXECUTED
FOR VIOLATING THE
UNIT'S RULES!

WHEN YOU ARE
ORDERED TO LEAVE,
YOU HAVE TO RETREAT
IMMEDIATELY! THE
ORDER OF THE UNIT IS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN SAVAGE
VALOR!

LET
ME BE
CLEAR!

IF HE
HADN'T FAILED
TO FOLLOW
VICE CAPTAIN
WADA'S ORDER
TO RETREAT
IMMEDIATELY,
HE WOULD HAVE
SURVIVED.

HOW-
EVER!





KEEP THIS
IN MIND!


IF YOU WANT
TO GET BACK
HOME ALIVE



I'LL DROP
IT AT HIS
PLACE ALONG
WITH THIS
STUFF WHEN I
GO HOME.

AS AN
EXCEPTION,
THEY GIVE US
TWO MORE RYO.
WITH THIS,
SENTA'S FAMILY
SHOULD HAVE
IT EASY FOR
A WHILE.

PR/N —
RYO WAS
A GOLD
COIN IN
MEDIEVAL
JAPAN,
EQUIVALENT
TO A YEAR'S
SUPPLY OF
RICE.



WHO WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
THAT HE'D DIE
IN HIS FIRST
BATTLE?

THEN AGAIN,
SENTA SURE
WAS AN
UNLUCKY
BASTARD.





**APOLOGIZE
TO SENTA
RIGHT NOW!**

**USHI, YOU
BASTARD!
DID YOU HEAR
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID?!**

**CUT
IT OUT
ALREADY!**



HEH!

THUMP

**BEFORE THE
SATSUMA
GUYS DO IT!**

**I'LL CUT
YOU DOWN**



**YOU
MIGHT BE
SMART,
BUT YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SAYING
TOO MUCH.**

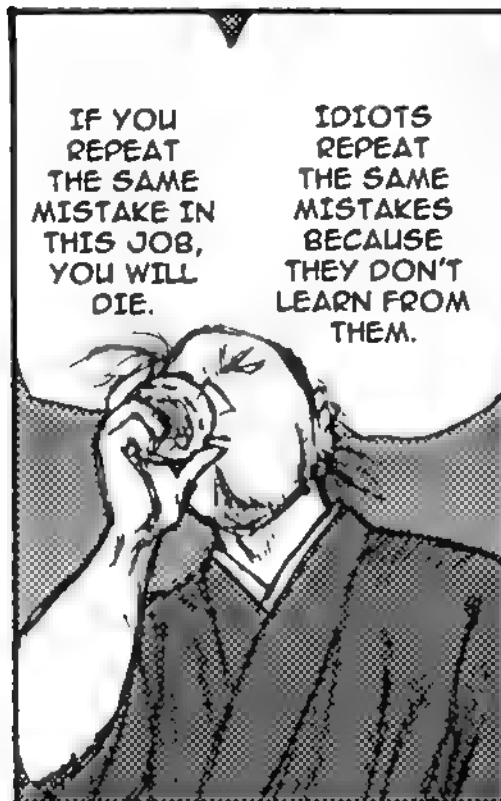
**BRO USHI,
YOU ARE
AT FAULT
HERE.**



**AT THIS
RATE, WE'LL
ALL END UP
DEAD!**

**YOU GUYS
JUST DON'T
GET IT.**

LISTEN!



IDIOTS REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES BECAUSE THEY DON'T LEARN FROM THEM.





SHIMADA
SAMA AND
WADA
SAMA
DIDN'T
TEACH US
THAT!

HOW
WOULD
HE KNOW
THAT?



BECAUSE
HE LOOKED
THE JUDGE
HEMT ON THE
SITUATION AND
COULDN'T FIGHT
THE ENEMY
BACK.

SENTA
DIED

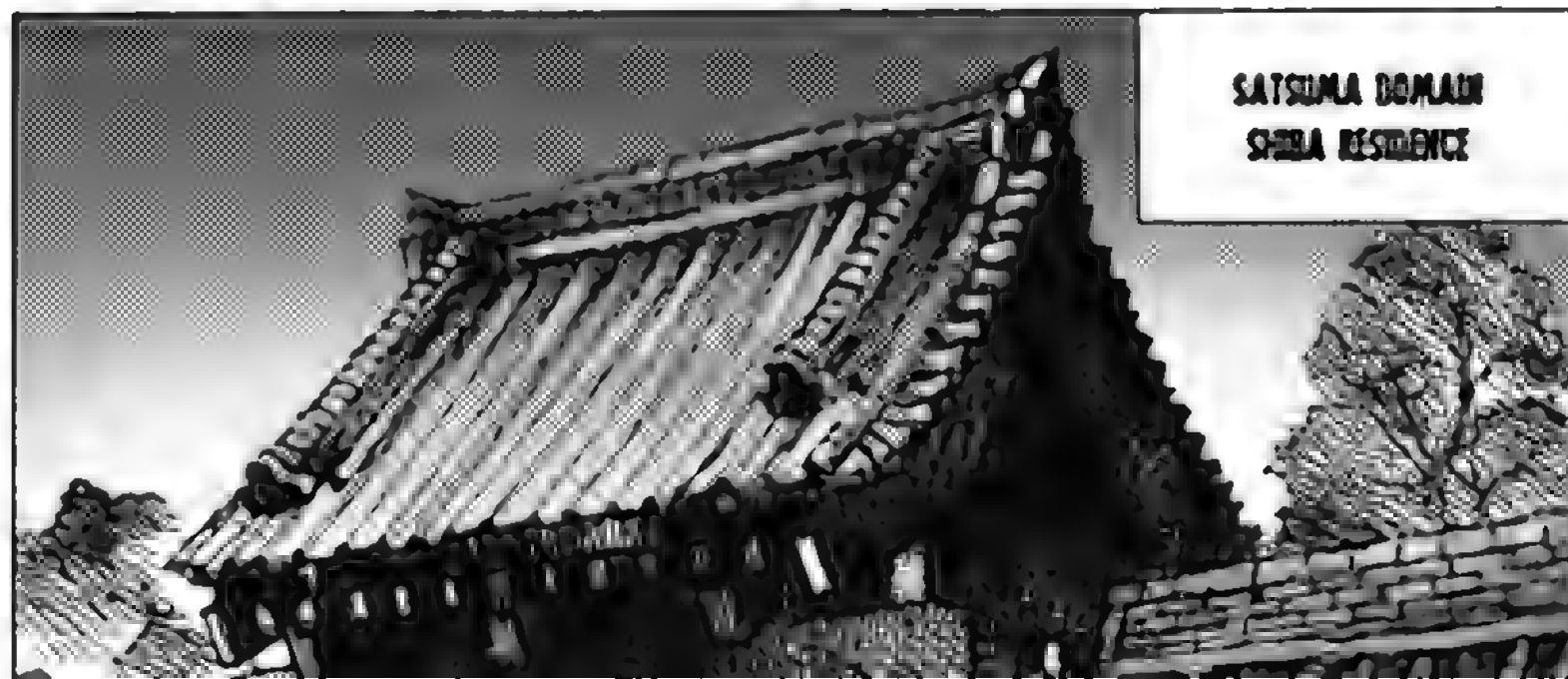


SO
WHAT?



WE HAVE TO
PRACTICE!

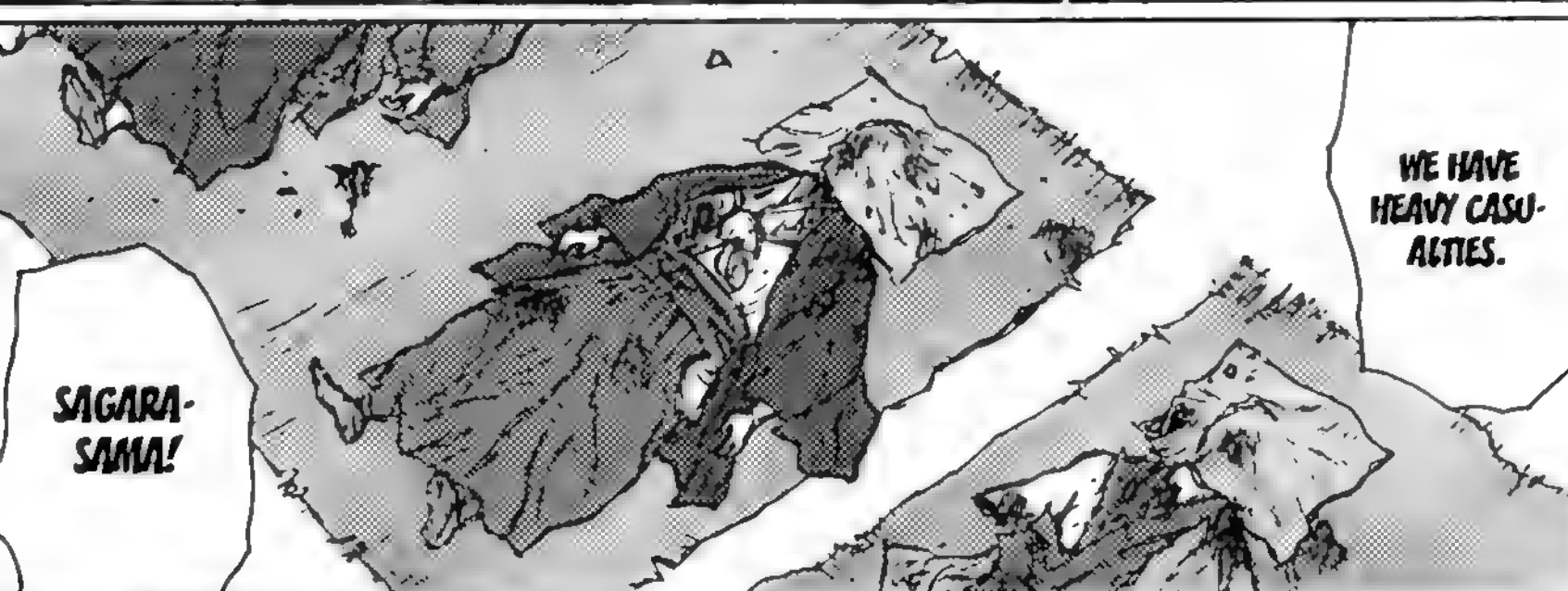
SINCE
THEY DIDN'T
TEACH US,
WE HAVE TO
LEARN THAT
OURSELVES.



SATSUMA DOMAIN
SHIBA RESIDENCE



SFX:
Birds
chirping



SAGARA-
SAMA!

WE HAVE
HEAVY CASU-
ALTIES.



THEY
COWARDLY
AMBUSHED US
UNDER COVER
OF THE NIGHT.
OUR MEN DIED
BEFORE THEY
COULD FIGHT
BACK...

W-WE
BELIEVE
THAT THE
ENEMY HAD
AT LEAST
40 MEN!

WELL,
MASUMITSU-
KUN?

WHY DIDN'T
ANYONE
WEAR ANY
ARMOR?

EVEN
THOUGH A
GOOD CHUNK
OF THE MEN
WERE RONIN OR
AMATEURS WITH
NO FIGHTING
EXPERIENCE,

EVEN IF
THEY HAD
WORN
ARMOR,
WE DON'T
KNOW IF
IT WOULD
HAVE
HELPED...

MAY I
SAY
SOME-
THING,
SAGARA-
SAMA?

HMPH...

W-WE
PRIORITIZED
AGILITY
OVER
DEFENSE...

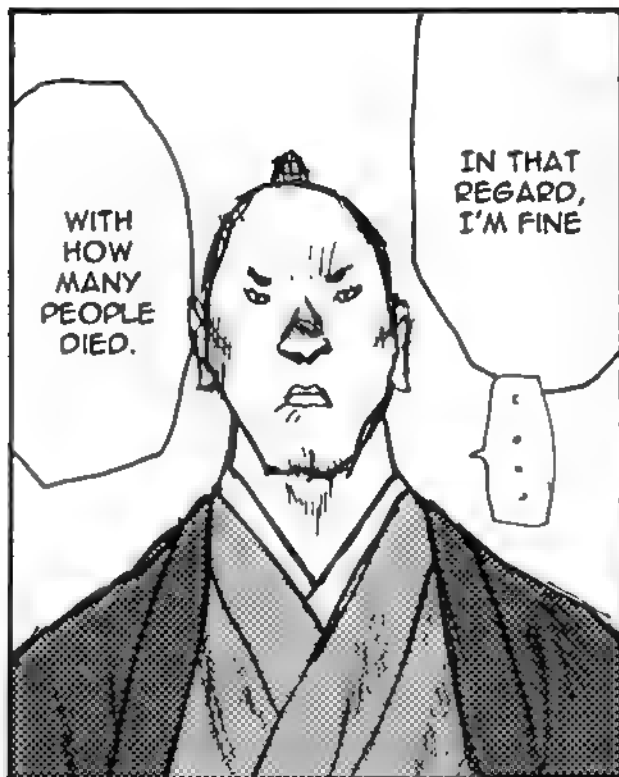
W-WELL,
SIR...

THEIR
TECHNIQUE
WAS ON PAR
WITH OUR
JIGENRYUU.
THEY KILLED
OUR MEN WITH
A SINGLE
STRIKE.

WE
BELIEVE
THEY WERE
VETERAN
WARRIORS
WITH A LOT
OF EXPERI-
ENCE.

WAS THE
ENEMY THAT
STRONG?

TL/N -
Jigenryuu
(自顕流)
is an
improved
version of
Jigenryuu
(示現流),
a sword
technique
employed
by Satsuma
warriors
which
emphasized
on killing
enemies
with a single
blow.



WITH
HOW
MANY
PEOPLE
DIED.

IN THAT
REGARD,
I'M FINE



YOU
DON'T
MEASURE
THE OUT-
COME
OF A
FIGHT BY
THE DEAD
BODIES.

MASU-
MITSU-
KUN.

SIR!



WHEN THEY
DO THAT, WE
WILL HAVE THE
LEGITIMIZATION
FOR AN ARMED
INTERVENTION TO
OVERTHROW THE
SHOGUNATE.

THUS,
THE ENEMY
ATTACK WAS
WITHIN OUR
CALCULA-
TIONS.

WITH THESE
TERROR ATTACKS,
WE WANT TO
STIMULATE THE
ADVOCATES OF
WAR WITHIN THE
SHOGUNATE.
IN A SENSE, WE
WANT TO PRO-
VOKE THEM TO
USE FORCE.



WHAT'S
MORE
IMPORTANT
IS OUR GOAL
AND WHY
SAIGOU-SAMA
TAUGHT US
TERRORISM
TACTICS.



THAT WE
HAVE NO
IDEA WHO
THE ENEMY
IS

HOWEVER,
THE PROB-
LEM IS



TO THINK THAT THEY WOULD USE A BLACK OPS UNIT... THERE SURE ARE SOME SCHEMERS AMONG THE VASSALS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, SAGARA-SAMA.

THERE'S STILL NO PROOF THAT THESE WERE ASSASSINS SENT BY THE SHOGUNATE.

WE STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY NEWS FROM OUR SPIES WITHIN THE SHOGUNATE AND SHOUNAI DOMAIN.



EITHER WAY, IF THEY HAVE GATHERED THAT MANY SKILLED WARRIORS, THERE SHOULD BE RUMORS ABOUT THEM.

THE SHINCHOU-GUMI MIGHT BE WARRIORS OF THE SHOUNAI DOMAIN, SUMMONED FROM THEIR HOMETOWNS OR RANDOM RONIN FROM HERE AND THERE.

TL/N - Shinchou-gumi were a police-like defense organization during the Edo Shogunate.



IF WE DROP THE BALL NOW, THE ENEMY'S SURPRISE ATTACK WILL HAVE REAL CONSEQUENCES.

ANYWAY, WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THE ACTS OF TERROR.



I'M COUNTING ON YOU, MASUMITSU-KUN.

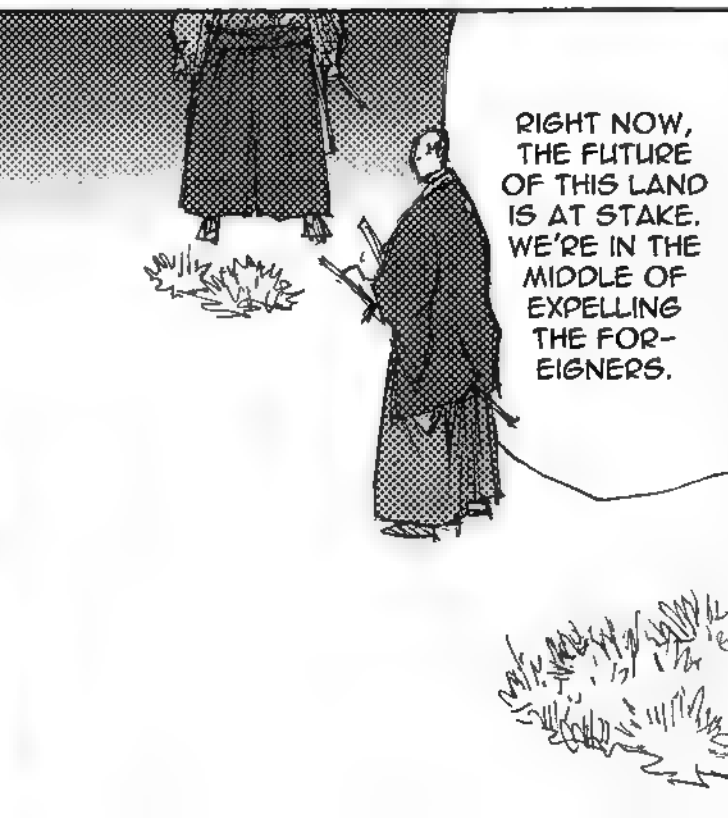
Y-YES SIR!



OH, WHERE'S IMUDA-KUN?

HUH?

NEXT TIME WE'LL DO THE SAME TO THEM! I SWEAR!

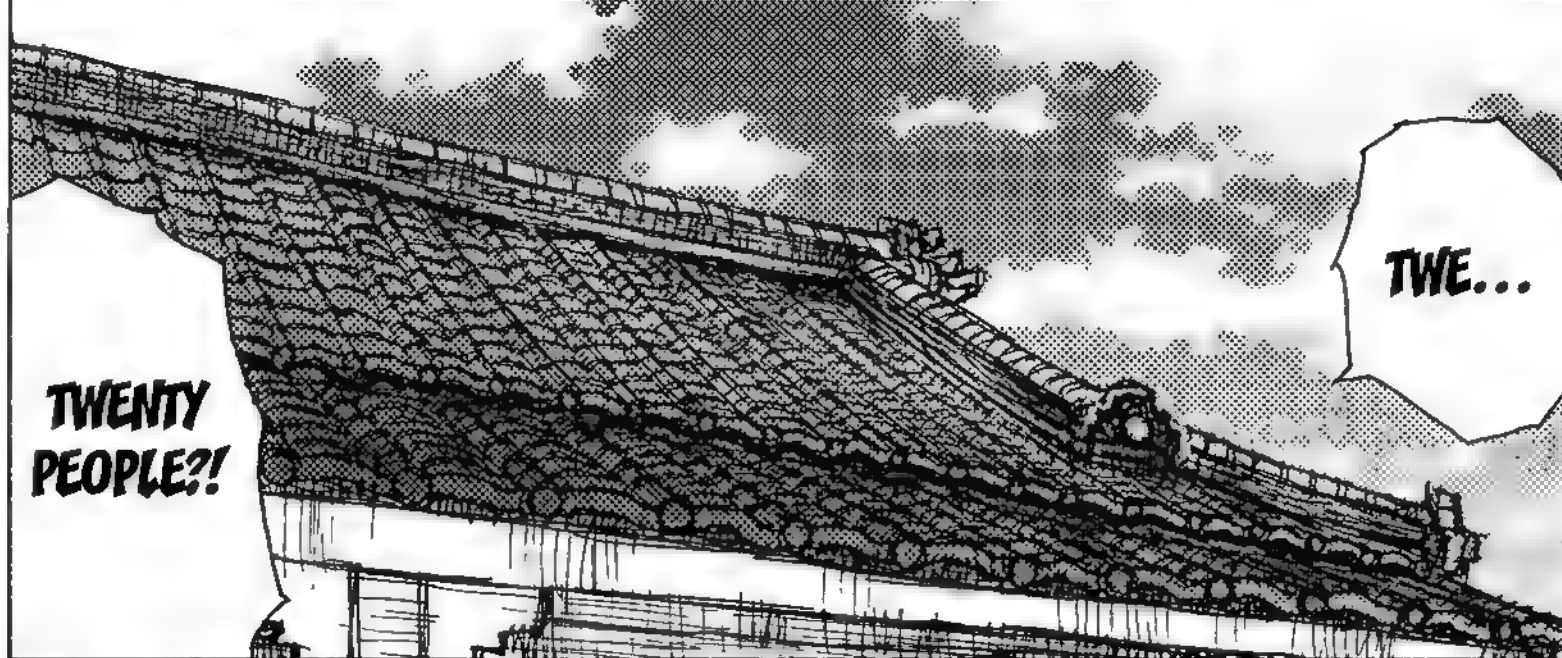


TL/N -
Expulsion
of foreign-
ers (or
barban-
ans) is re-
ferring to
the decree
by the
Emperor
to prevent
the west-
ernization
of Japan.



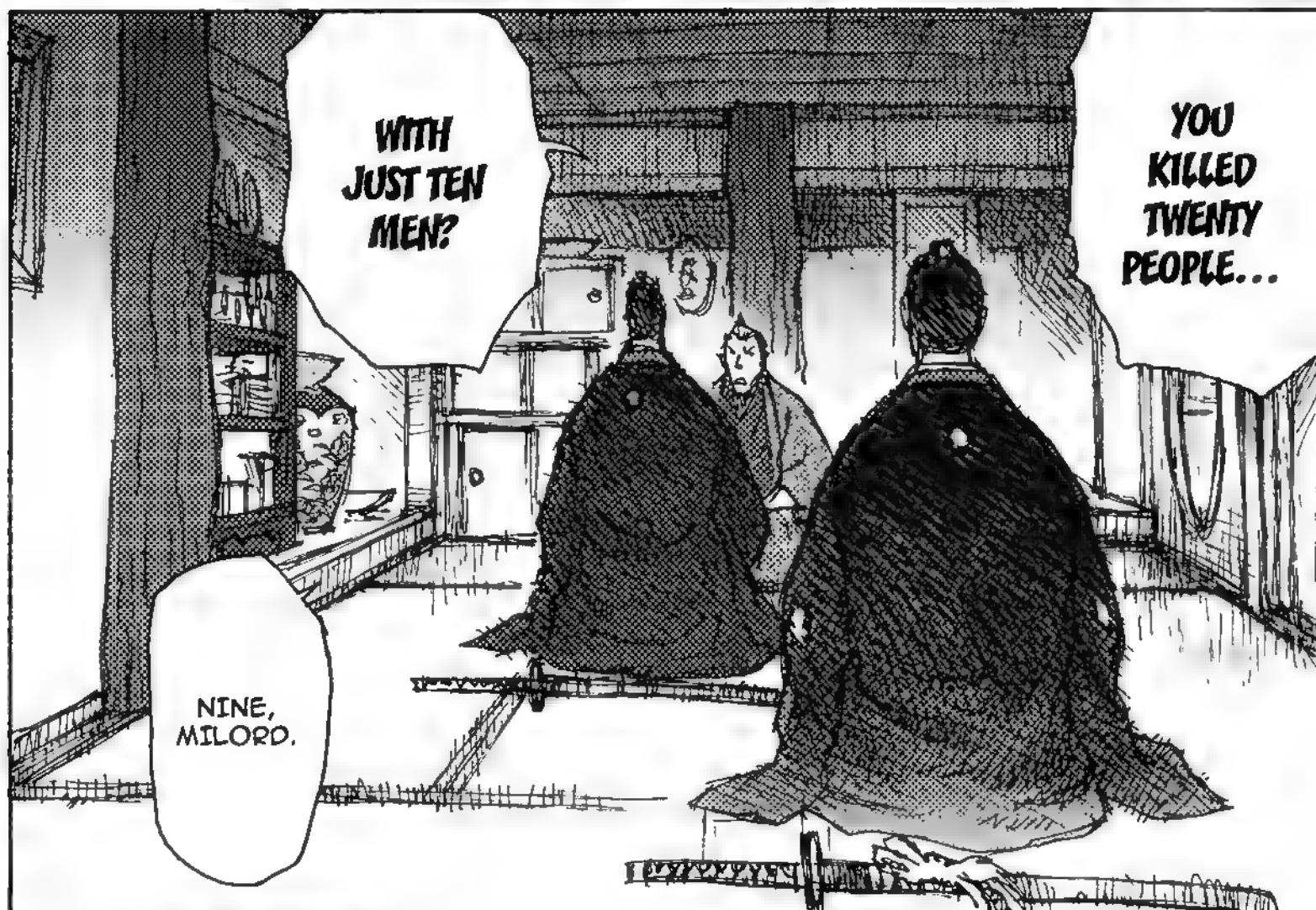
CHAPTER 7 SURPRISE ATTACK





**TWENTY
PEOPLE?!**

TWE...



**WITH
JUST TEN
MEN?**

**YOU
KILLED
TWENTY
PEOPLE...**

**NINE,
MILORD.**



**YOU
SAY?**

**JUST
ONE**



**CASUALTY
IN THE
FIGHT.**

**WE
HAD
ONE**

ONE?!



EVEN
THOUGH
IT WAS A
SURPRISE
ATTACK, I
THOUGHT
HALF OF
THEM WOULD
DIE IN THE
BATTLE.



I
BELIEVE
YOU.

I... I'M
ASTON-
ISHED!



THE ENEMY
LOST THEIR
LEADER AND
FELL INTO
CHAOS.

ON TOP
OF THAT, MOST
OF THE ENEMY
WERE THUGS AND
FALLEN RONIN.
THEY WERE ALSO
NOT PREPARED
FOR A SURPRISE
ATTACK.



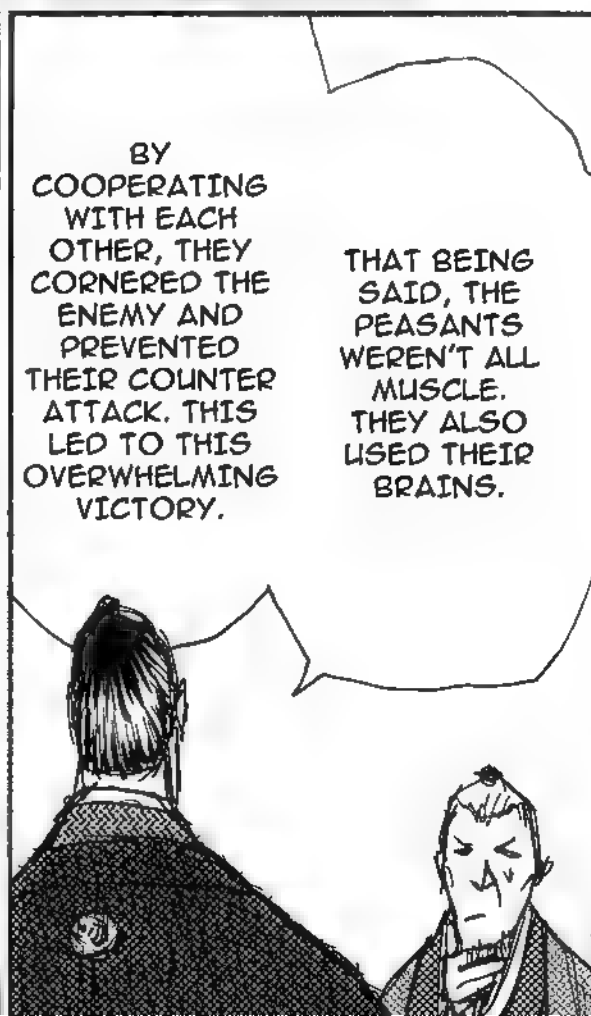
THOSE
PEASANTS
ARE
PRETTY
GOOD.

I SEE...



I RECKON
THAT THE
ENEMY WILL
BE MORE
PREPARED
FROM NOW
ON.

HOWEVER,
THIS WON'T
NECESSAR-
ILY BE TRUE
THE NEXT
TIME.



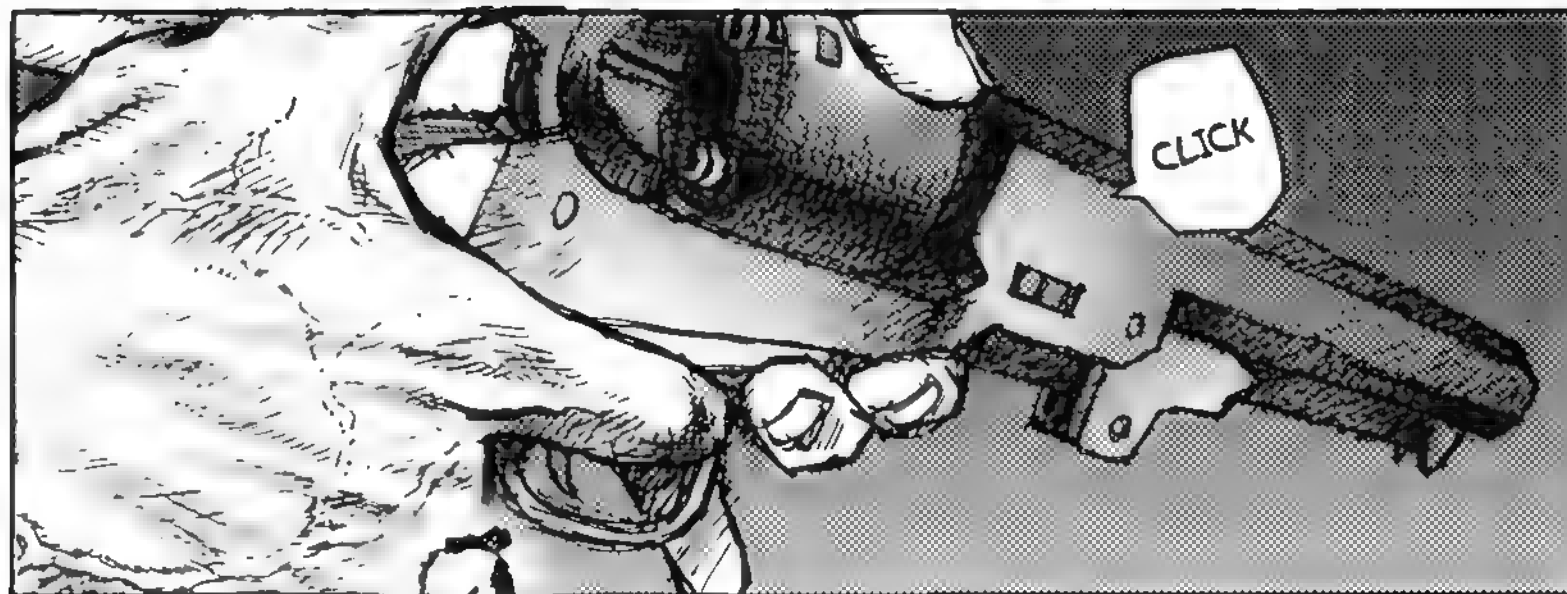
BY
COOPERATING
WITH EACH
OTHER, THEY
CORNERED THE
ENEMY AND
PREVENTED
THEIR COUNTER
ATTACK. THIS
LED TO THIS
OVERWHELMING
VICTORY.

THAT BEING
SAID, THE
PEASANTS
WEREN'T ALL
MUSCLE.
THEY ALSO
USED THEIR
BRAINS.



WE HAVE
TO HOLD
ADMISSION
TESTS FOR
PEASANTS ALL
OVER THE PLACE
AND TRAIN THE
CAPABLE ONES
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

WHEN
THEY SORTIE
EVERY DAY,
IT'S NECES-
SARY TO HAVE
SUBSTI-
TUTIONS.



WE DONT
WANT TO
ALERT THE
ENEMY.

HEY, LEAVE
YOUR RIFLES
BEHIND.





AND MY
MEN ARE
READY!

I,
KAIÉDA
NOBUYOSHI



IS TO
PREVENT
ANOTHER
ATTACK BY
THE ENEMY
LIKE LAST
NIGHT!

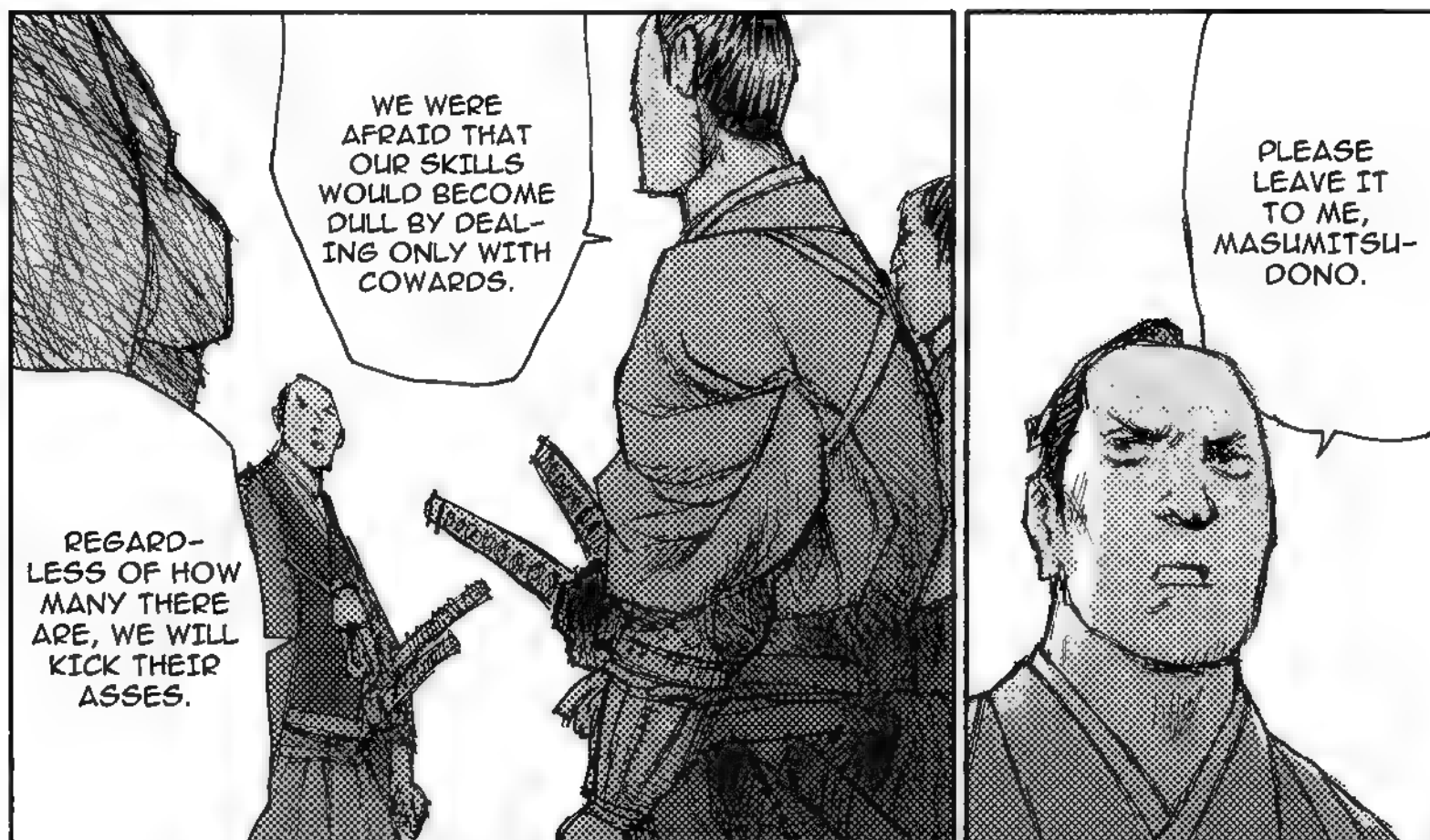
GENTLEMEN!
THE REASON
THAT YOU,
THE MOST
SKILLED
WARRIORS
OF THIS
DOMAIN
ARE HERE,



HOWEVER,
IN ORDER TO
STRIKE BACK,
WE MUST FIRST
UNVEIL THEIR
IDENTITIES!

THE
ENEMY'S
NUMBERS
RANGE FROM
20 TO 30
MEN, AND
ALL OF
THEM ARE
SKILLED!

WE
CANNOT
DELAY OUR
TERROR
ATTACKS.



WE WERE
AFRAID THAT
OUR SKILLS
WOULD BECOME
DULL BY DEAL-
ING ONLY WITH
COWARDS.

REGARD-
LESS OF HOW
MANY THERE
ARE, WE WILL
KICK THEIR
ASSES.

PLEASE
LEAVE IT
TO ME,
MASUMITSU-
DONO.



I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU,
UMIEDA-
DONO.

...GOOD.



YES...
I TOLD
HIM THAT,
TOO...

**THAT'S
NOT HIS
DUTY.**

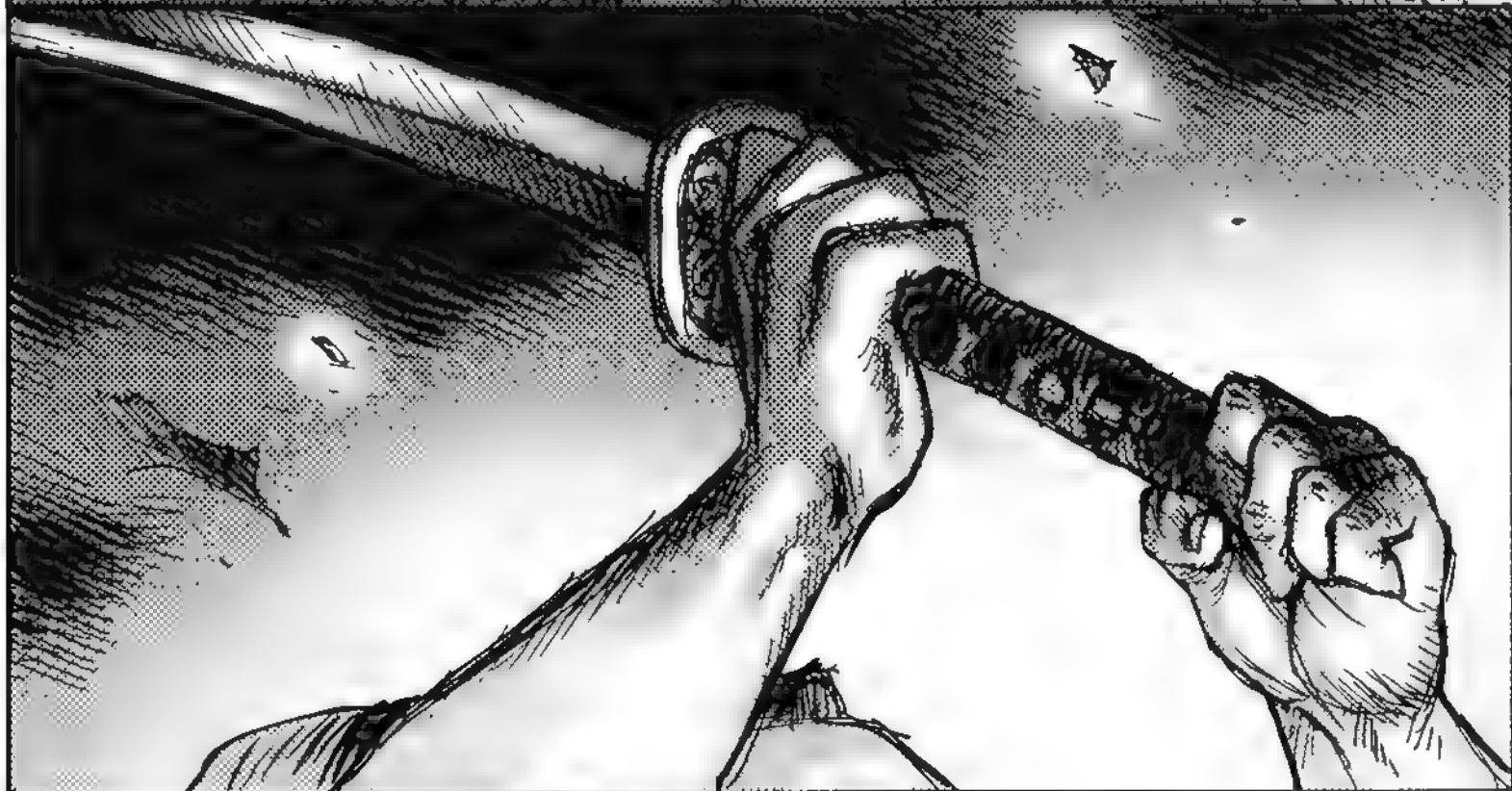
HE
LEFT EARLY
FOR THE
CITY THIS
MORNING
TO CONDUCT
AN INVESTI-
GATION.

WHERE'S
IMUDA-
DONO?

**WHAT THE
HELL IS HE
DOING?!**

**NOW
OF ALL
TIMES?**

WHA...





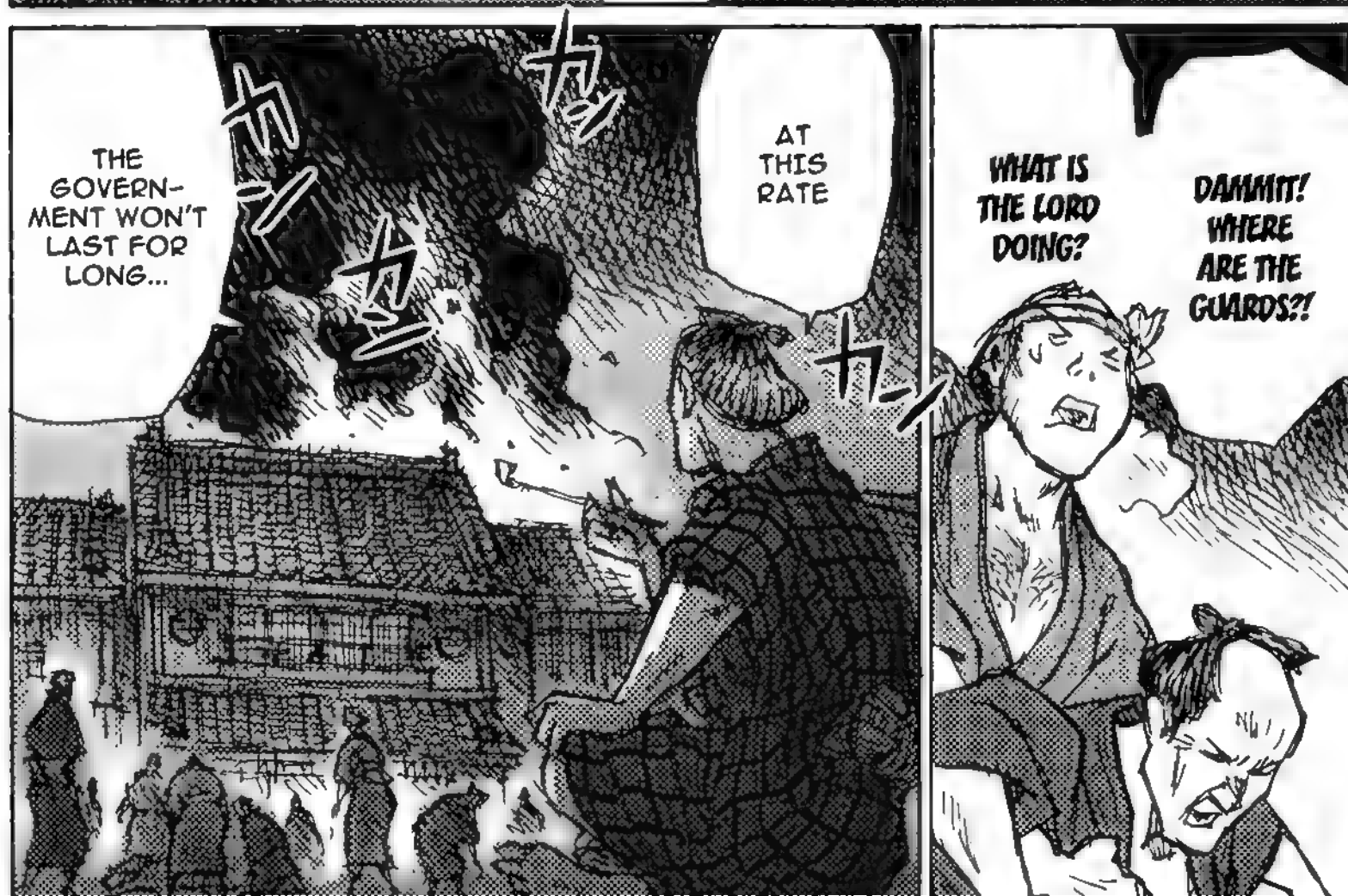
SFX:
Alarm



HURRY
AND CALL A
DOCTOR!

FATHER!
HANG IN
THERE!

MURASAKIYA
GOT ATTACKED
AS WELL!



THE
GOVERN-
MENT WON'T
LAST FOR
LONG...

AT
THIS
RATE

WHAT IS
THE LORD
DOING?

DAMMIT!
WHERE
ARE THE
GUARDS?!







BUT
IT'S NOT
WORTH
LOSING
MY LIFE
OVER IT.

I'M ONLY
DOING THIS
BECAUSE
SATSUMA
IS PAYING
SO WELL,

A close-up of a man's face, looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. He has dark hair and is wearing a traditional Japanese garment.

IN YES-
TERDAY'S
ATTACK,
TAMEZOU
FROM MY
VILLAGE
WAS
KILLED.

NOTHING
HAPPENED
TODAY, BUT
WHO KNOWS
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO-
MORROW.

A black and white illustration of a village street at night. Three figures in traditional robes are walking away from the viewer. A dog is running in the foreground. The background shows traditional Japanese buildings and a crescent moon in the sky.

UGH...
IT
STINKS!

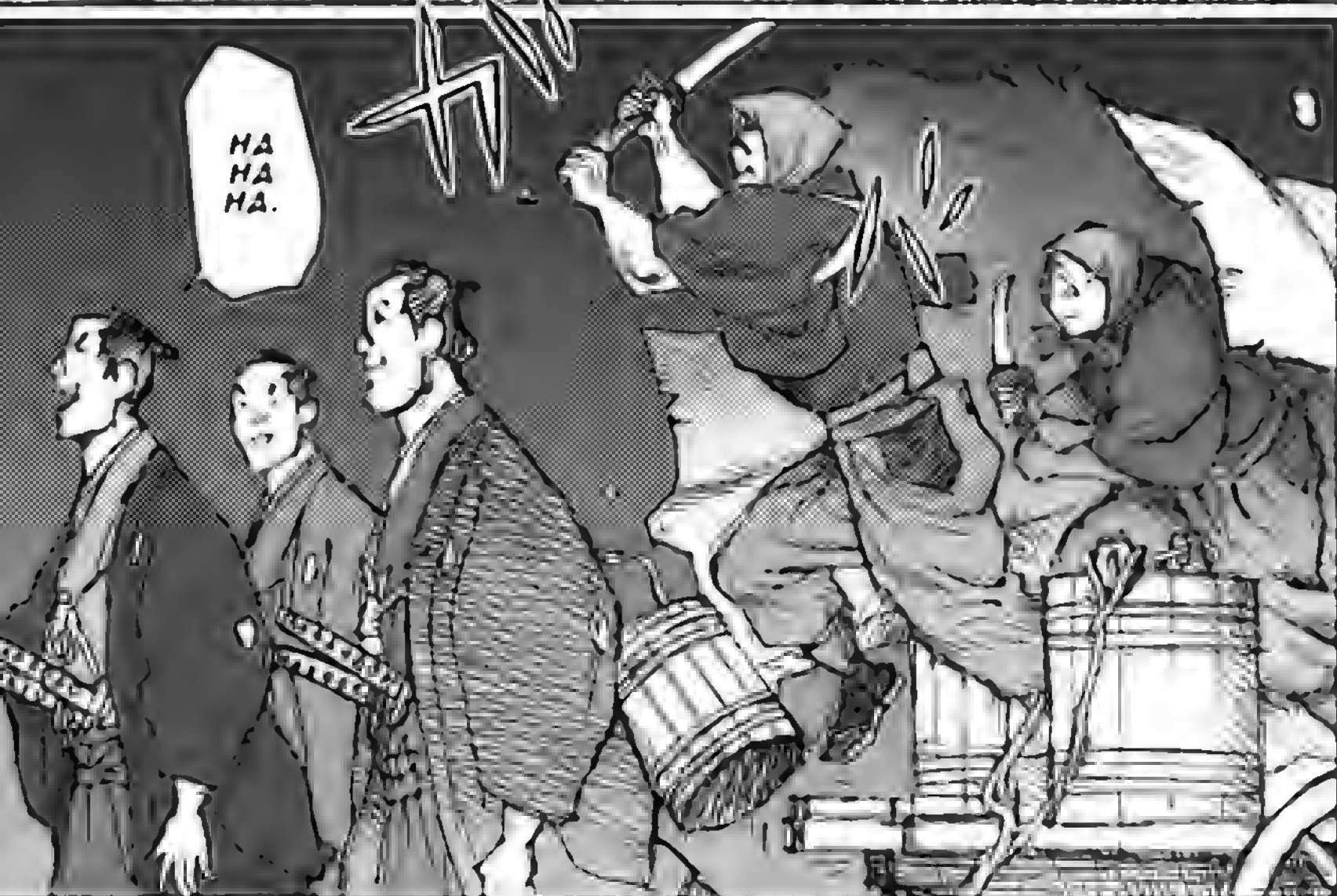
THE
PEASANT
IS HAULING
MANURE...

A black and white illustration of a peasant hauling a large wheelbarrow filled with manure. The peasant is wearing a traditional headscarf and is walking towards the viewer. In the background, three figures in traditional robes are walking away. The scene is set in a village street at night.

TRUE,
BUT IT
MIGHT
NOT BE
THE BEST
TIMING
RIGHT
NOW.

A black and white illustration of a man's profile, looking towards the left. He has dark hair and is wearing a traditional Japanese garment.

SFX:
Cart
shaking



SFX
Whack!
Slash!



SFX
Thunk!



SHIT!



PULL BACK!
G-GOOD.



RA-RANDOM KILLINGS!

HII!

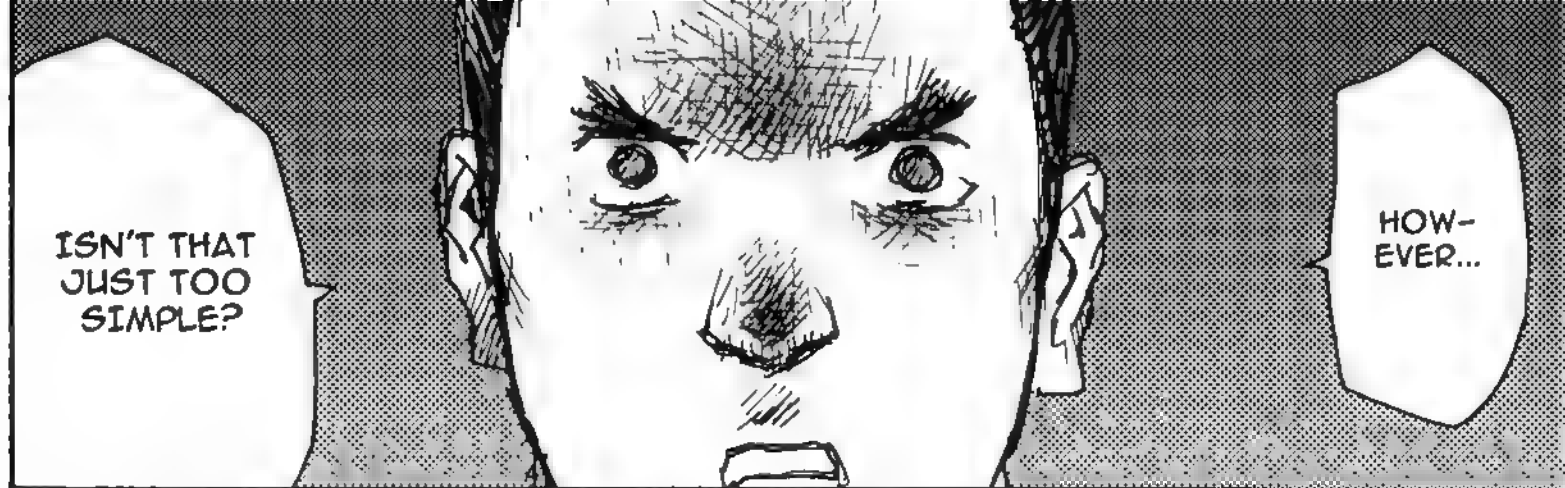


UH...



THEN WE CAN PREVENT UNIT CASUALTIES.

RIGHT!
IF THE ASSASSINATIONS ARE FOCUSED ON THE RONIN,



ISN'T THAT
JUST TOO
SIMPLE?

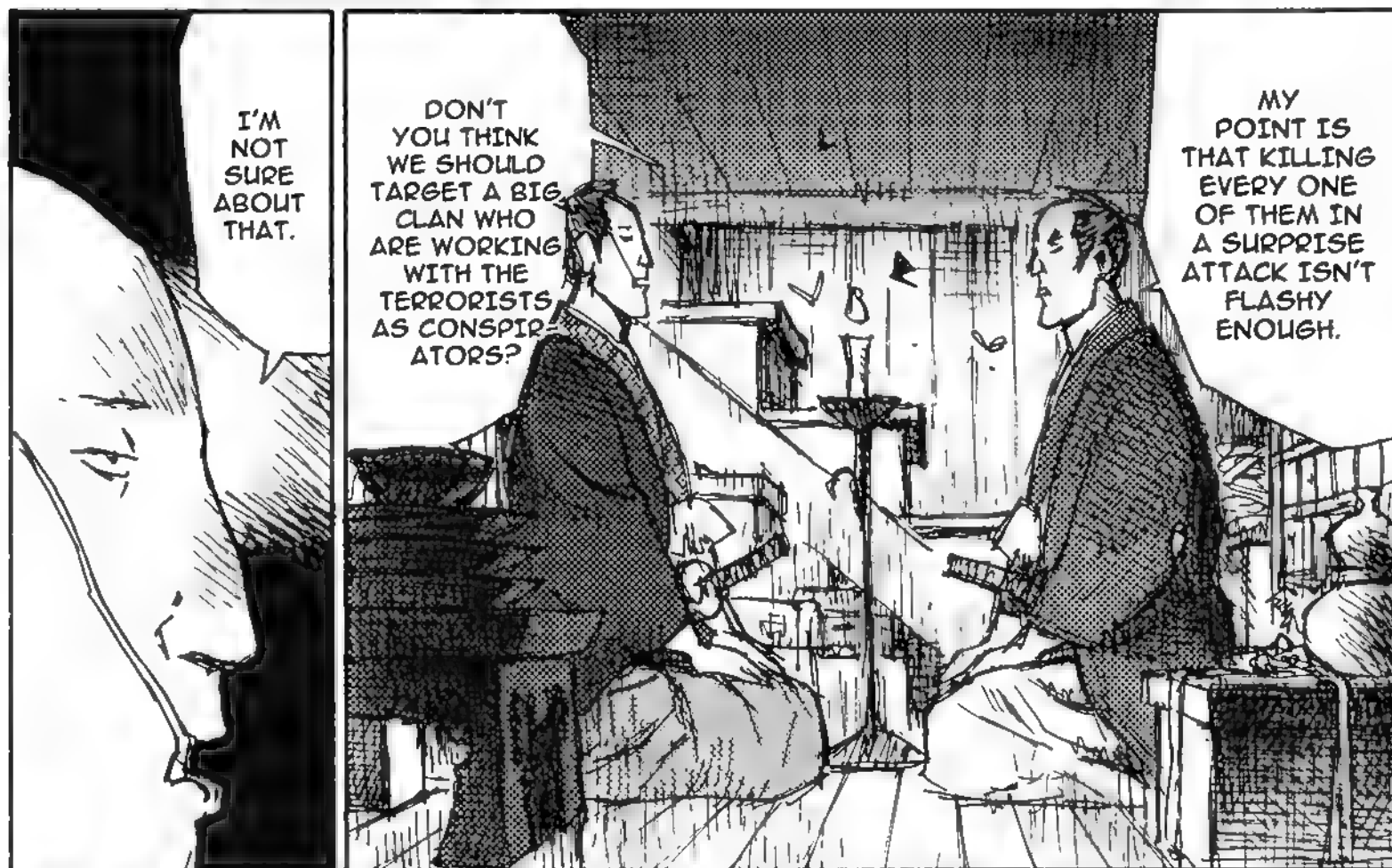
HOW-
EVER...



SO THE
IDEA IS TO
CONTINUE
THE MISSION
WITH EIGHT
MEN.

WHETHER
OR NOT TO
RECRUIT NEW
MEMBERS
FOR THE
UNIT IN THE
FUTURE.

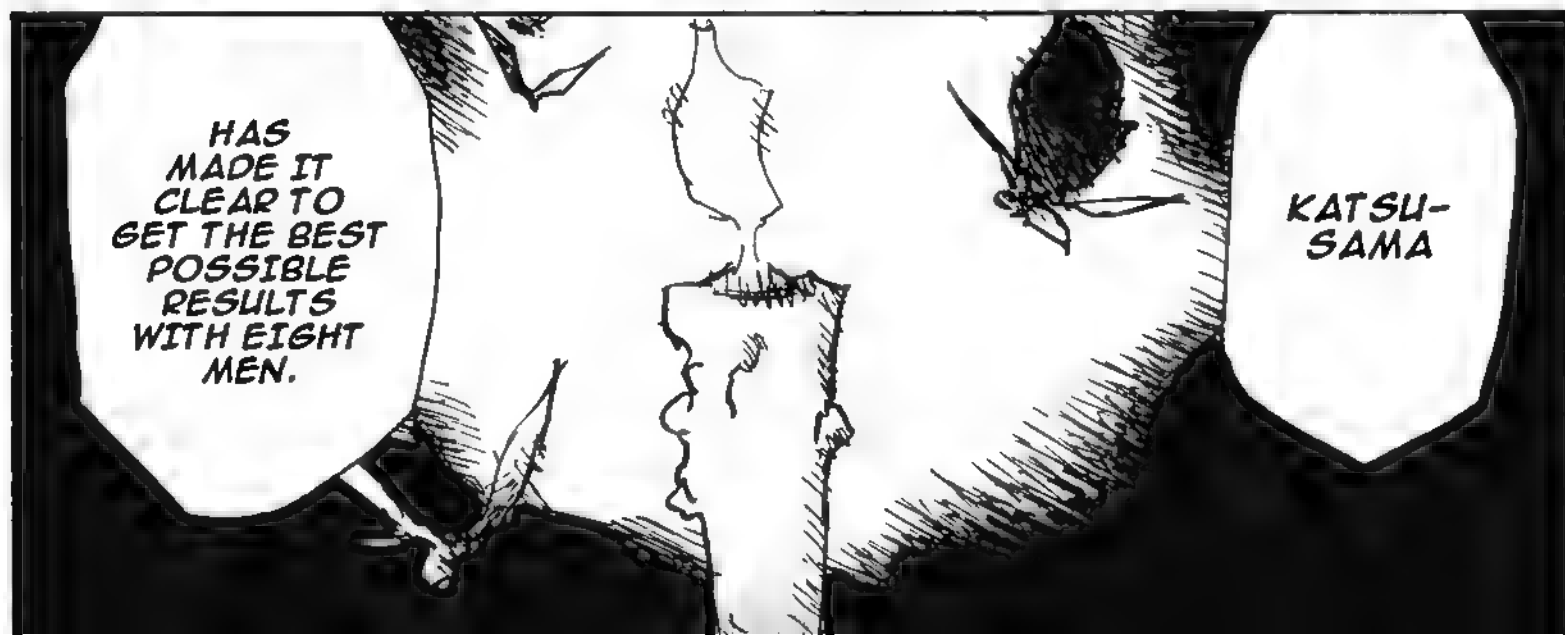
WE
COULDN'T
GET PERMIS-
SION FOR
THEM TO
WEAR ARMOR
AND OUR
LORD IS
STILL CON-
SIDERING



I'M
NOT
SURE
ABOUT
THAT.

DON'T
YOU THINK
WE SHOULD
TARGET A BIG
CLAN WHO
ARE WORKING
WITH THE
TERRORISTS
AS CONSPIR-
ATORS?

MY
POINT IS
THAT KILLING
EVERY ONE
OF THEM IN
A SURPRISE
ATTACK ISN'T
FLASHY
ENOUGH.



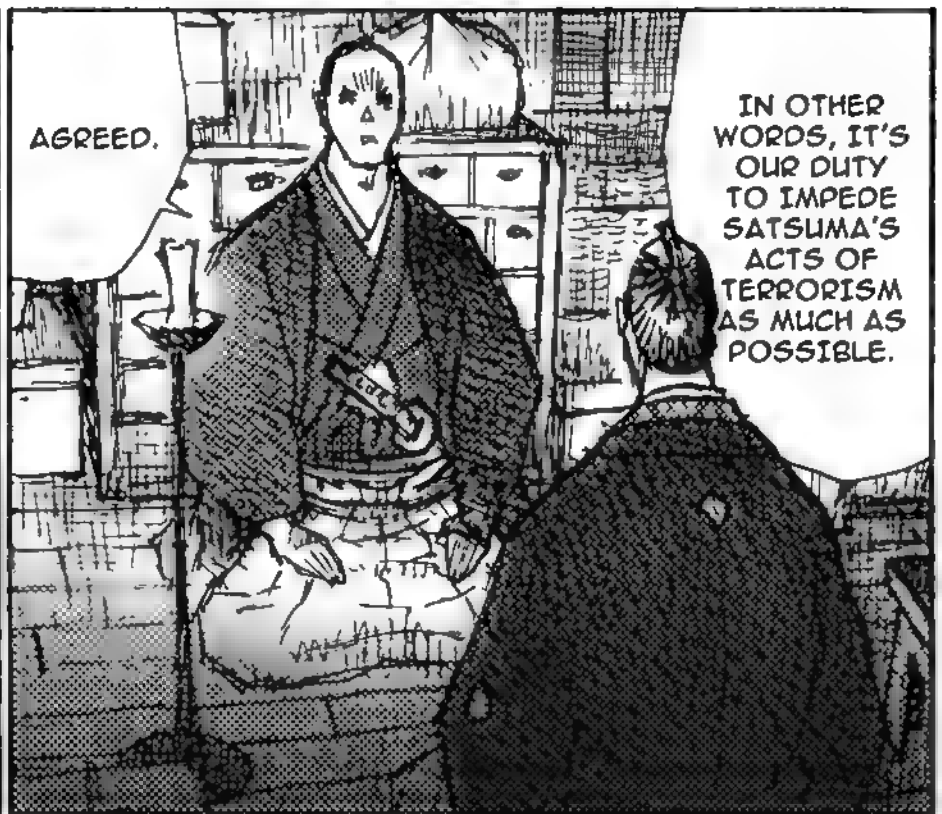
HAS
MADE IT
CLEAR TO
GET THE BEST
POSSIBLE
RESULTS
WITH EIGHT
MEN.

KATSU-
SAMA



BUT
IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE
TO GATHER
SO MANY
MEN THAT
QUICKLY.

I'M SURE
SATSUMA
WILL FIND
SKILLED
MEN FOR
THIS,



AGREED.

IN OTHER
WORDS, IT'S
OUR DUTY
TO IMPEDE
SATSUMA'S
ACTS OF
TERRORISM
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE.



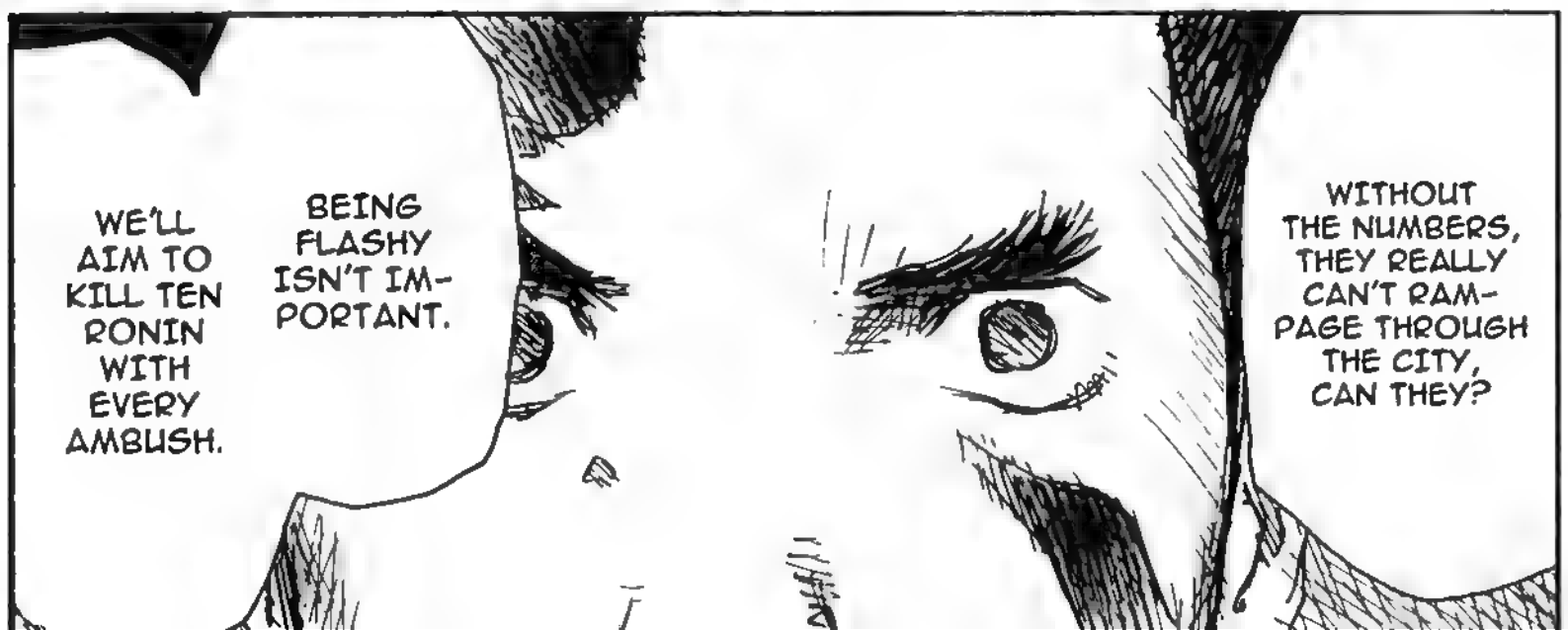
THEIR
RINGLEADER,
SAGARA,
IS BAITING
PEOPLE INTO
THIS WITH
A LOT OF
MONEY.

IN ORDER
TO LAY WASTE
TO THE CITY,
THEY NEED
TO EMPLOY A
LARGE NUMBER
OF RONIN
AND THUGS.



ULTIMATELY,
THEY AREN'T
READY TO DIE
FOR THIS
CAUSE.

THEY'RE AN
IMMORAL
BLUNCH.

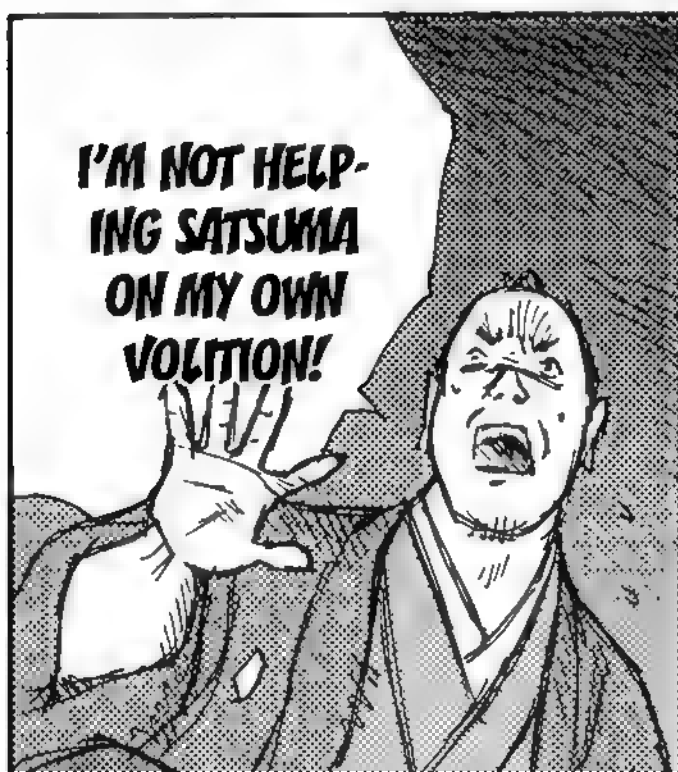


WE'LL
AIM TO
KILL TEN
RONIN
WITH
EVERY
AMBUSH.

BEING
FLASHY
ISN'T IM-
PORTANT.

WITHOUT
THE NUMBERS,
THEY REALLY
CAN'T RAM-
PAGE THROUGH
THE CITY,
CAN THEY?

SFX:
Whoosh!
Wham!



**I'M NOT HELP-
ING SATSUMA
ON MY OWN
VOLITION!**



**PLEASE
WAIT!**

WAIT!



I'M
BEGGING
YOU!



IF I DIE HERE,
MY FAMILY
WILL BE ON
THE STREETS.

MY
MOTHER
IS SICK
AND WE
CAN'T EVEN
PAY THE
RENT...



WELL...
SAMURAI-
SAMA, YOU
HAVE YOUR
OWN CIRCUM-
STANCES...

RIGHT?

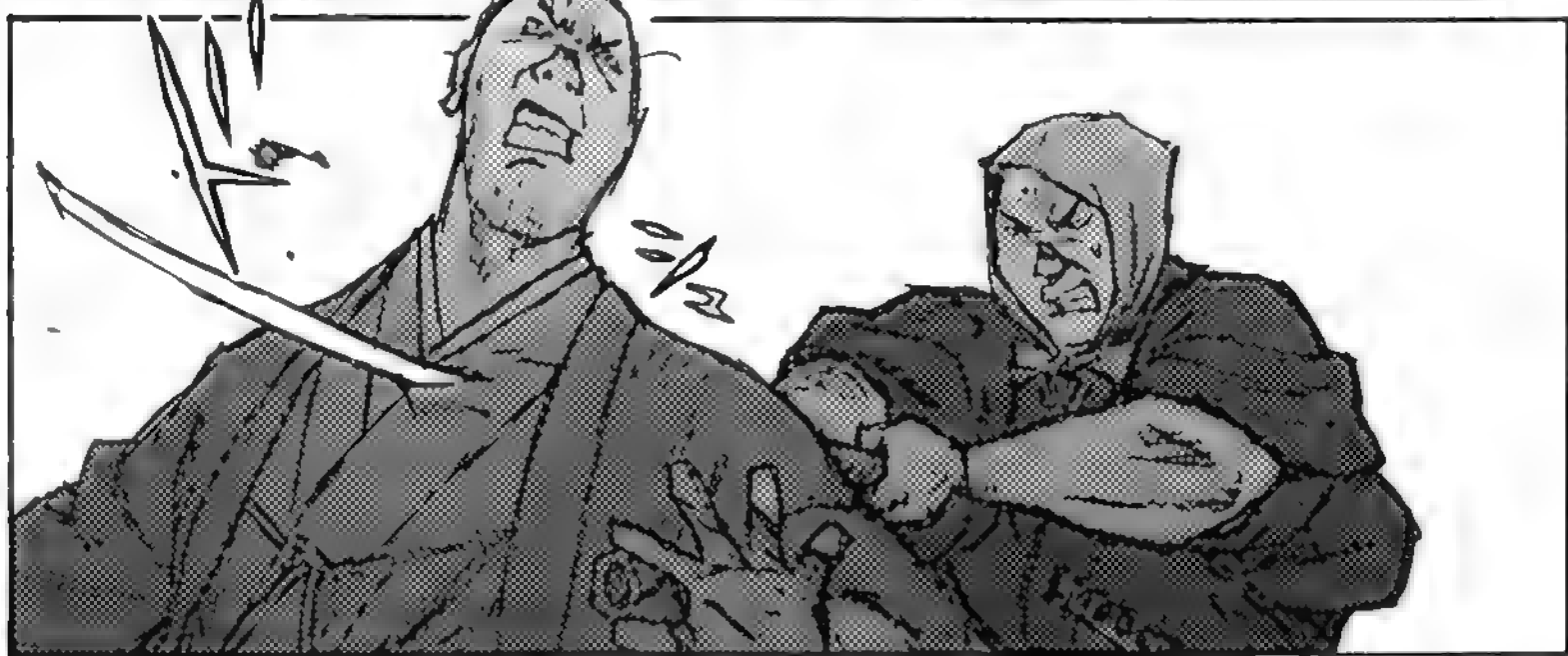
THIS
DOESN'T
CONCERN
US...

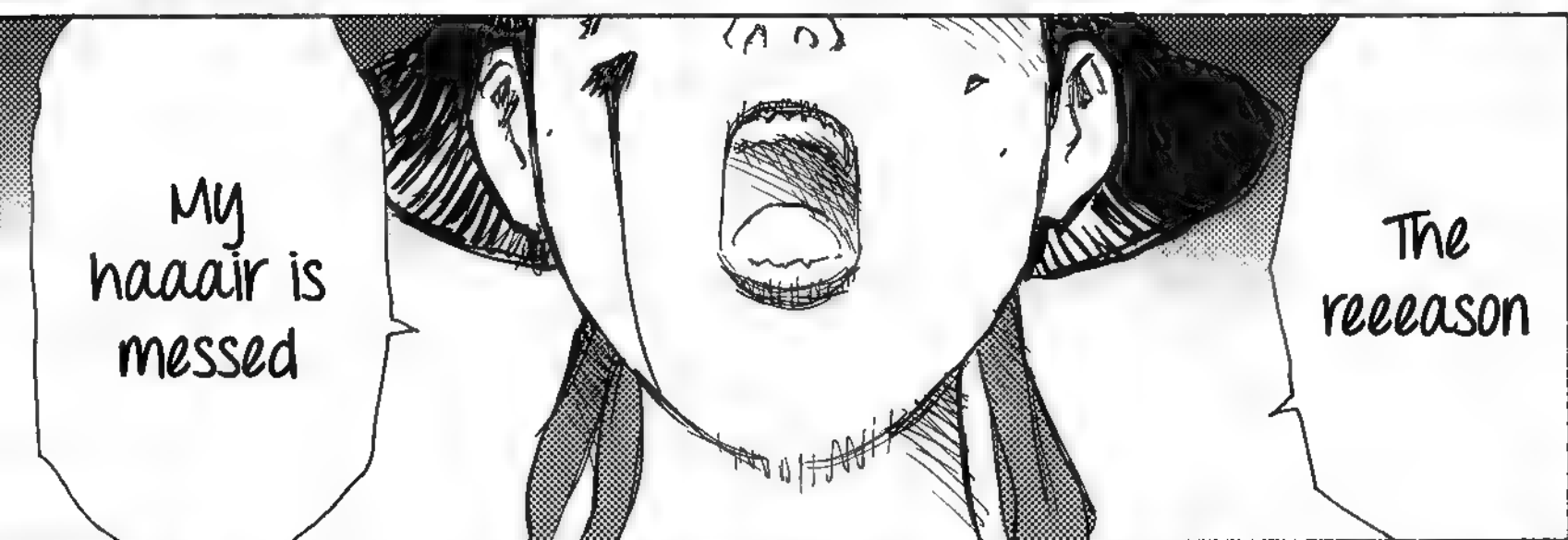


KEEIII!

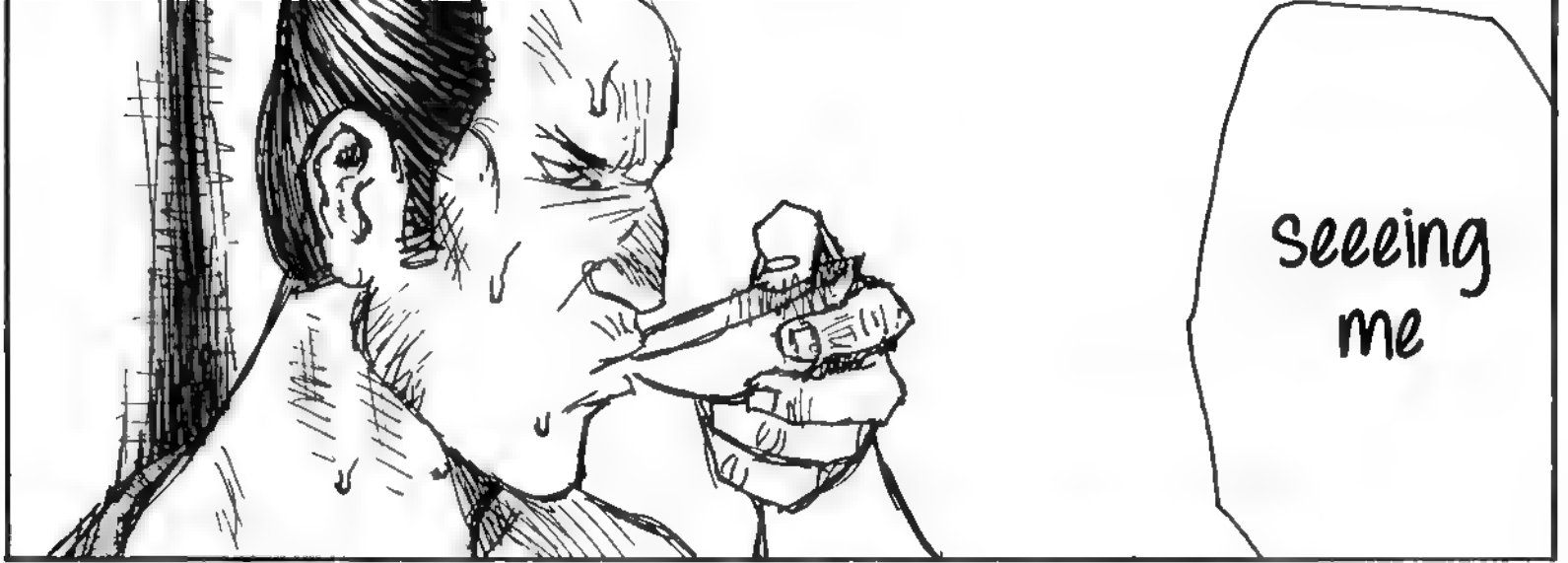
WAAH!







TL/N:
THIS IS
A SHORT
BALLAD
SUNG BY
PROSTI-
TUTES
DURING
THE EDO
AND MEIJI
ERA. IT'S
AN ELO-
QUENT
WAY OF
SAYING
"I'VE SLEPT
WITH
ANOTHER
CUSTO-
MER."



seeeing
me



WON'T
YOU TAKE
A SIP WITH
ME?

WHY ARE
YOU JUST
STANDING
THERE?



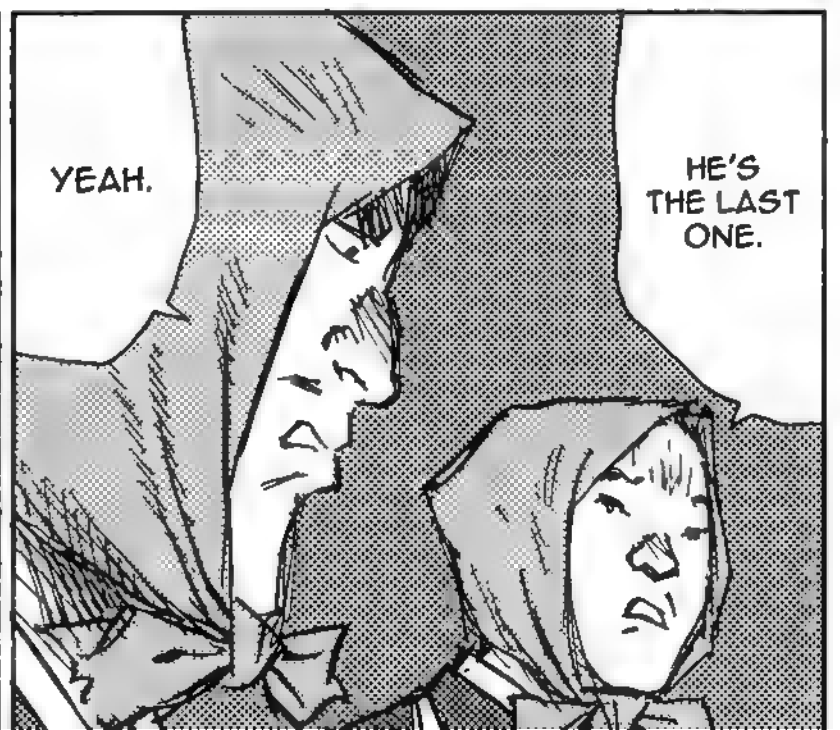
Liiiiike
this

Makes
youuu dis-
trustful...



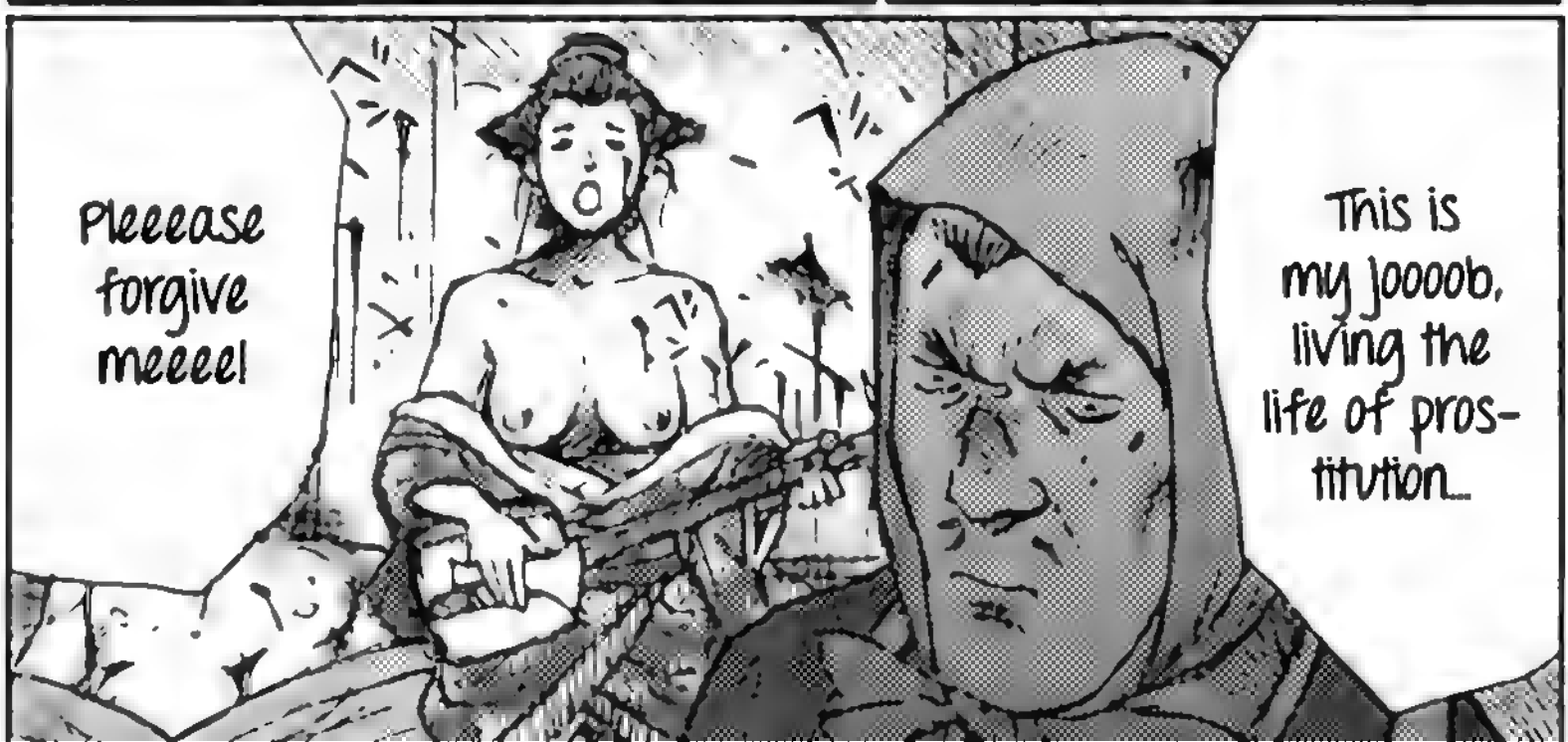
SHUT
UP!

BUT IS IT
OKAY TO
KILL THIS
DRUNKARD?



YEAH.

HE'S
THE LAST
ONE.





**AREN'T YOU
A SAMURAI?!**

**HEY YOU
BASTARD!
GET YOUR SHIT
TOGETHER!**



TSK!

**IF YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANY FOOD
TO EAT,**

**YOU
AREN'T
EVEN A
HUMAN.**

**WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?**

**SAMURAI,
YOU SAY?**



**I'M NOT
SOMEONE
WHO JUST
ACTS LIKE A
SAMURAI!
I AM...
A REAL
SAMURAI!**

**LISTEN
TO ME!
I'M NOT
LIKE YOU!**



**WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!**

SATSUMA RESIDENCE

I BELIEVE
THAT'S WHAT
THEIR AIM
IS.

**IN JUST
TWO DAYS,
MORE THAN
THIRTY RONIN
HAVE DE-
SERTED!**

**AT THIS RATE
WE WILL HAVE TO
REDUCE OUR
ATTACKS!**

BUT THE
RUMORS ARE
ALREADY
MAKING THE
ROUNDS. THE
RONIN IN THE
CITY ARE TOO
AFRAID TO
ASSOCIATE
WITH US.

**INCREASE
THE NUMBER
OF RECRUITS
BY RAISING
THEIR PAY!**

THEY'RE
TAKING FULL
ADVANTAGE
THAT THE
RONIN ARE
HANGING
OUTSIDE AND
AMBUSHING
THEM.



WHY DID THEY START AMBUSHING ONLY A FEW RONIN AFTER THE NEW YEAR?

BUT IT'S QUITE STRANGE...



BUT WE HAVE TO RELY ON THE RONIN UNTIL THEY ARRIVE.

WE'VE ASKED FOR HELP FROM OUR COMRADES ALL OVER THE PLACE,

I SEE...



THEY WOULD ATTAIN A BIGGER VICTORY IF THEY ALL ATTACKED TOGETHER AT ONCE.

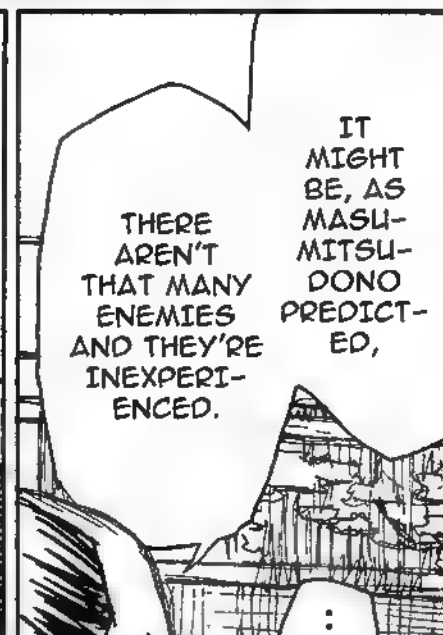
IF THE ENEMY CONSISTS OF THIRTY SKILLED WARRIORS,

IN-DEED...



WELL...

DO WE HAVE A WORD FROM OUR SPIES?



THERE AREN'T THAT MANY ENEMIES AND THEY'RE INEXPERIENCED.

IT MIGHT BE, AS MASU-MITSU-DONO PREDICTED,

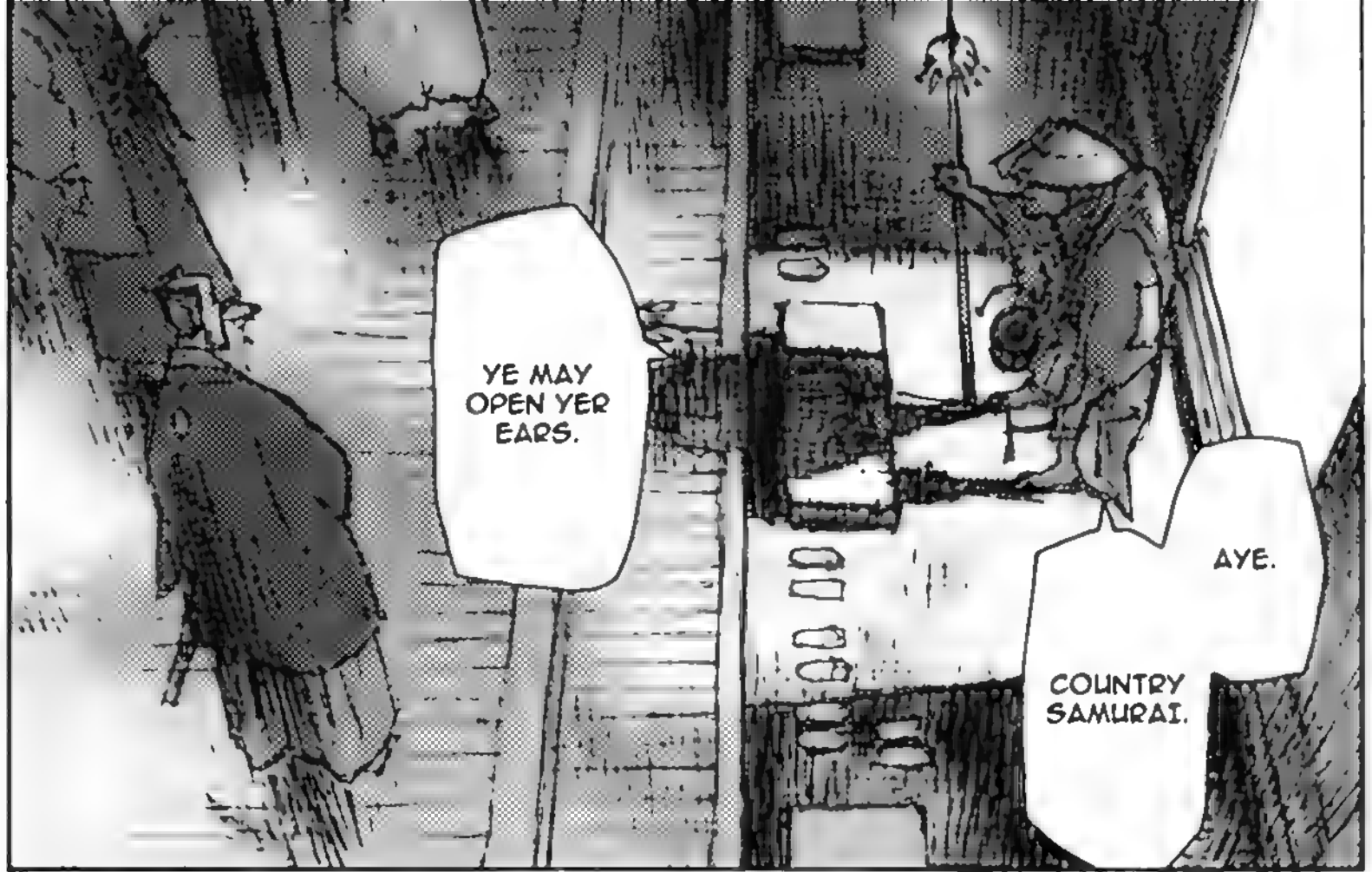


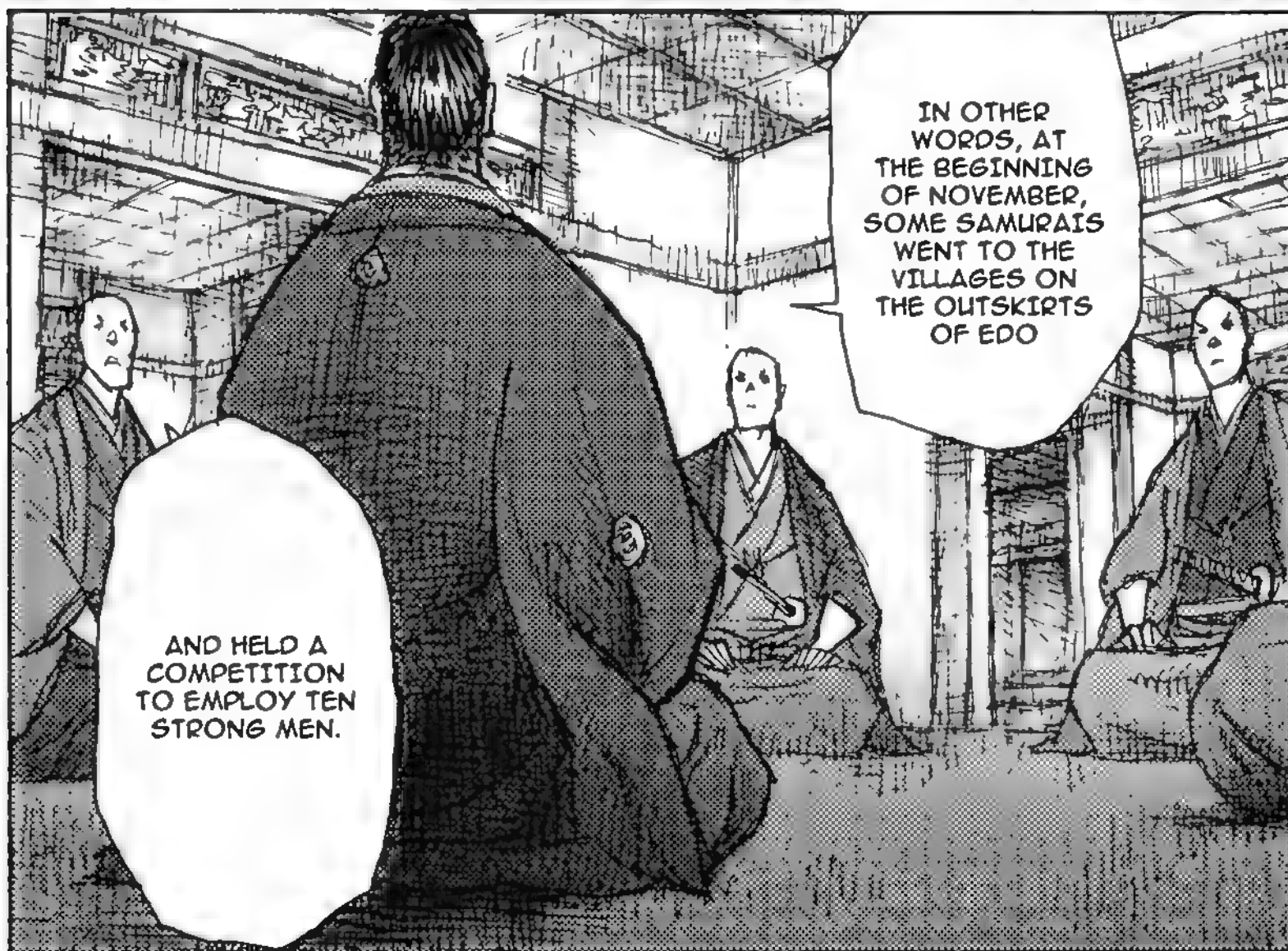
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING THAT CORROBORATES WHAT MASU-MITSU HAS SUGGESTED.

WE'RE GATHERING INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL SPIES EVERY DAY.









IN OTHER
WORDS, AT
THE BEGINNING
OF NOVEMBER,
SOME SAMURAI
S WENT TO THE
VILLAGES ON
THE OUTSKIRTS
OF EDO

AND HELD A
COMPETITION
TO EMPLOY TEN
STRONG MEN.



FOR A
LABOR
JOB.

YOU
WOULDN'T
HOLD A
COMPETI-
TION

YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

IT'S
NOT TOO
UNCOM-
MON.

AREN'T
THEY JUST
PEOPLE
WHO DO
ODD LABOR
JOBS?

YES.

PEAS-
ANTS?



IMUDA-
DONO.



HE
APPEARS
TO BE A
HOMELESS
WANDER-
ER.

TRUE...
A COMPE-
TITION IS
DEFINITELY
ODD.


SO,
WHO'S THE
INFOR-
MANT?

GULP




NO
WONDER
WE COULDN'T
FIND THEM
AMONG
THE RONIN
WITHIN THE
CITY.

I SEE...
PEASANTS,
HUH...



THE WORLD IS
RIGHT IN FRONT
OF US! DON'T
FALL BEHIND,
MIDGET!



**I'VE GOT
NOTHING TO
DO WITH THE
SAMURAI
FIGHTING!**

**I'M JUST A
PEASANT!**

SFX:
Stoooo
ooooop



HEY, GET YOURSELF TOGETHER!

WAA
AAAA
AAH!



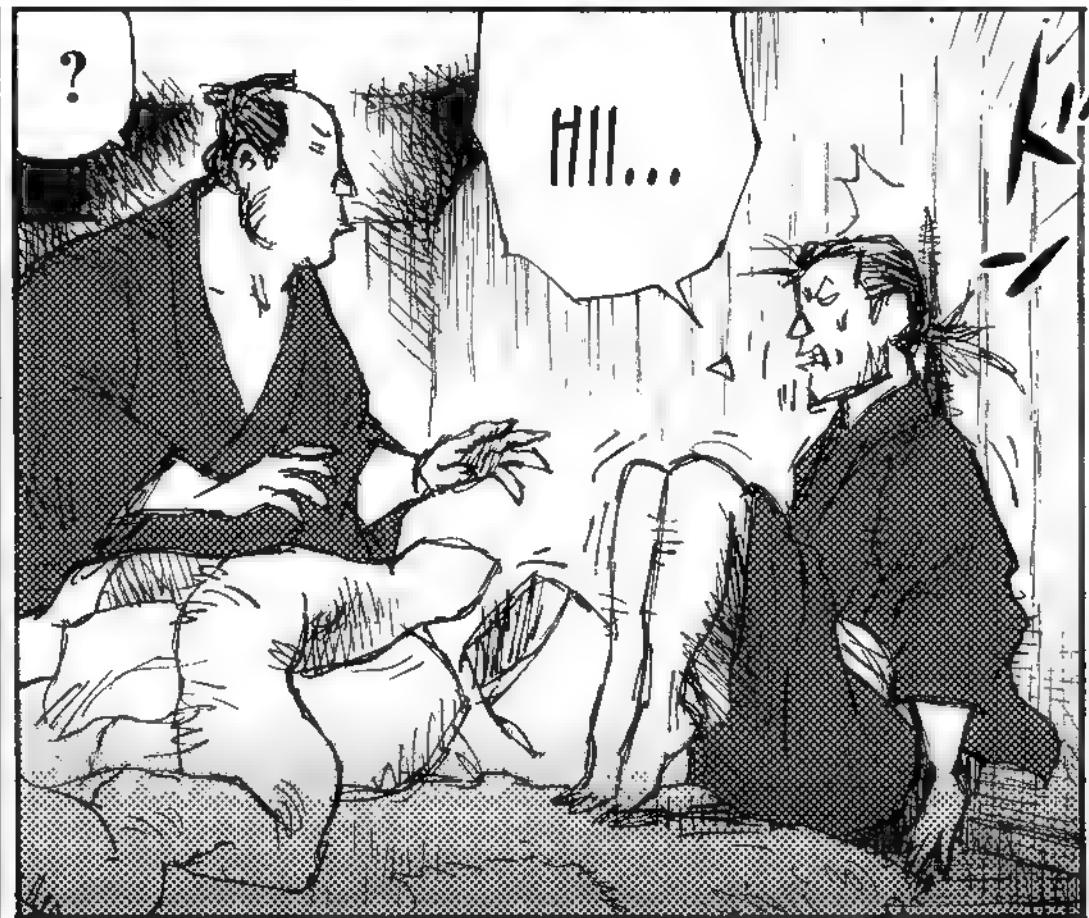
IT WAS JUST A NIGHT-MARE.

WHAT'S WRONG?



IS MY FACE THAT SCARY?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRO?



?

HII...

K!



YON...
YONEKICHI.



UHYAA
AAAH!

THERE
WE GO
AGAIN.

SHUUUT
THE HELL
UP!



IT'S HARD
TO GET SOME
SLEEP WHEN
SOMEONE
KEEPS MOAN-
ING ALL THE
TIME.

WHAT?



YEAH,
I'M FINE.

BRO,
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



ICHI IS
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
SLEEPS
LIKE A
BABY.

LOOK
AT HIS
STUPID
FACE.

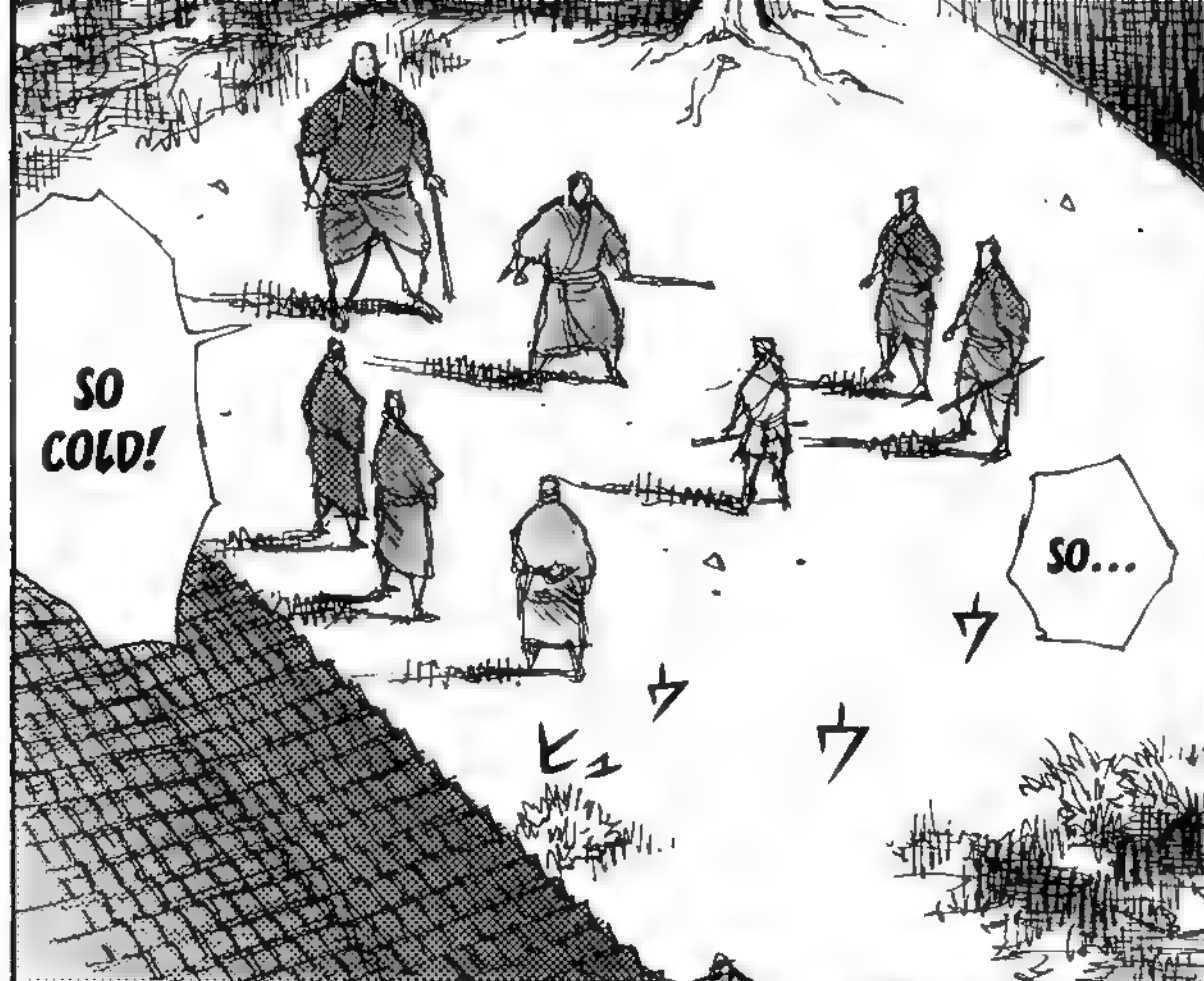
SFX:
Scratch,
scratch.
Snoring.



WE
STILL HAVE
TIME UNTIL
MORNING
PRACTICE.

SERIOUS-
LY... WE ALL
WOKE UP
BECAUSE
OF HIM...

DAMN!
I WANT TO
DRINK SOME
SAKE TO KILL
THE TIME...



**SO
COLD!**

SO...



**TO PLAY
WITH
SWORDS?**

**SO YOU
ROUSED US
OUT OF OUR
WARM BEDS
FOR WHAT?**



**JUST COME
AT ME WITH
A FRONTAL
ATTACK.**

**I DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR THAT
THIS EARLY IN
THE MORNING.**



**WE'LL
LEARN HOW
TO HANDLE
A SWORD.**

**WE'RE
PRACTICING,
NOT TRAIN-
ING!**



ARE YOU SAYING, YOU LITTLE MIDGET?!

WHAT...



IT'S NOT LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO HIT ME ANYWAY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.



AL-RIGHT!

LET'S DO THIS!

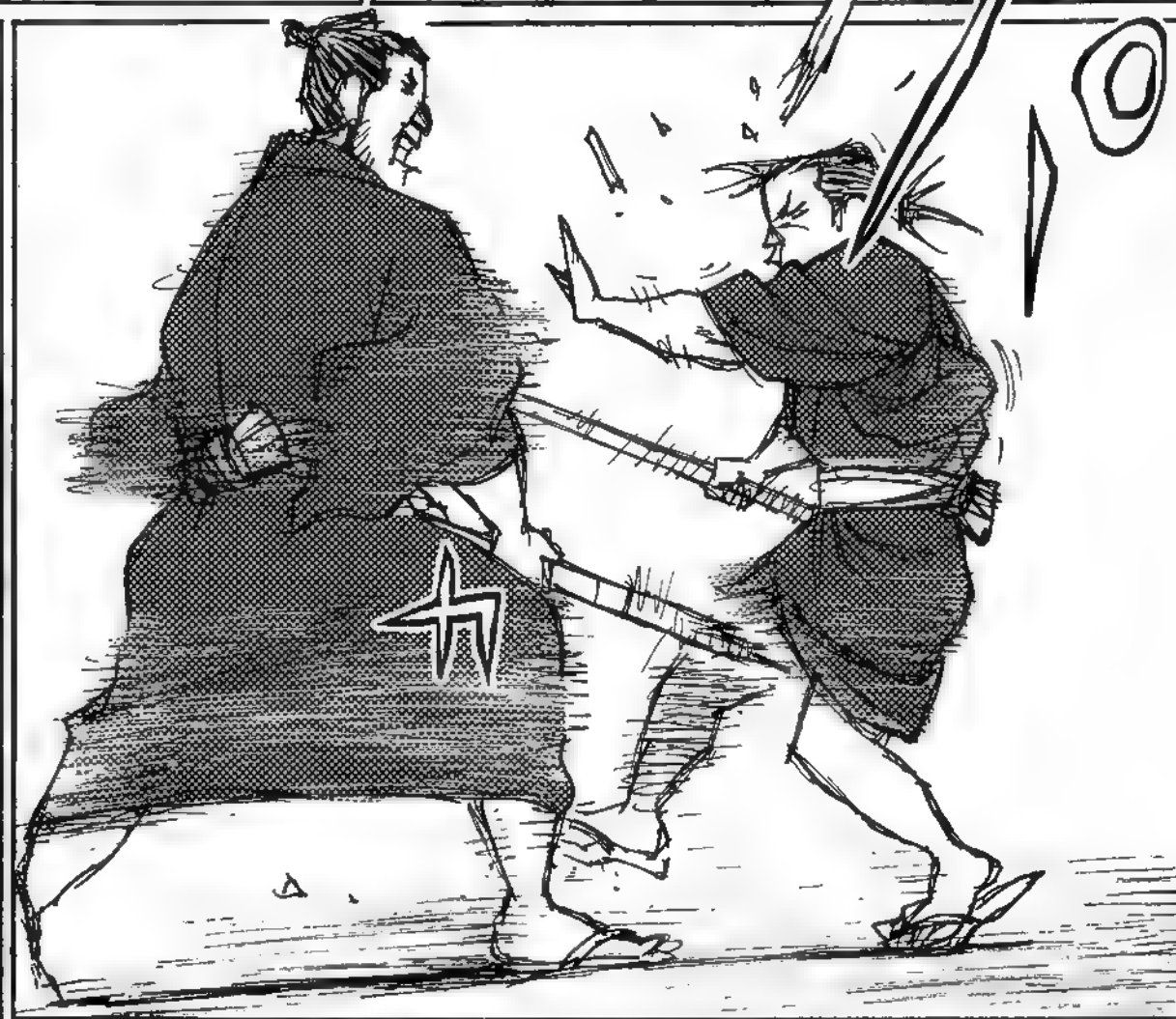


BEAT THAT MIDGET TO A PULP!

GO AND GET HIM, ICHI!



SFX:
Dash



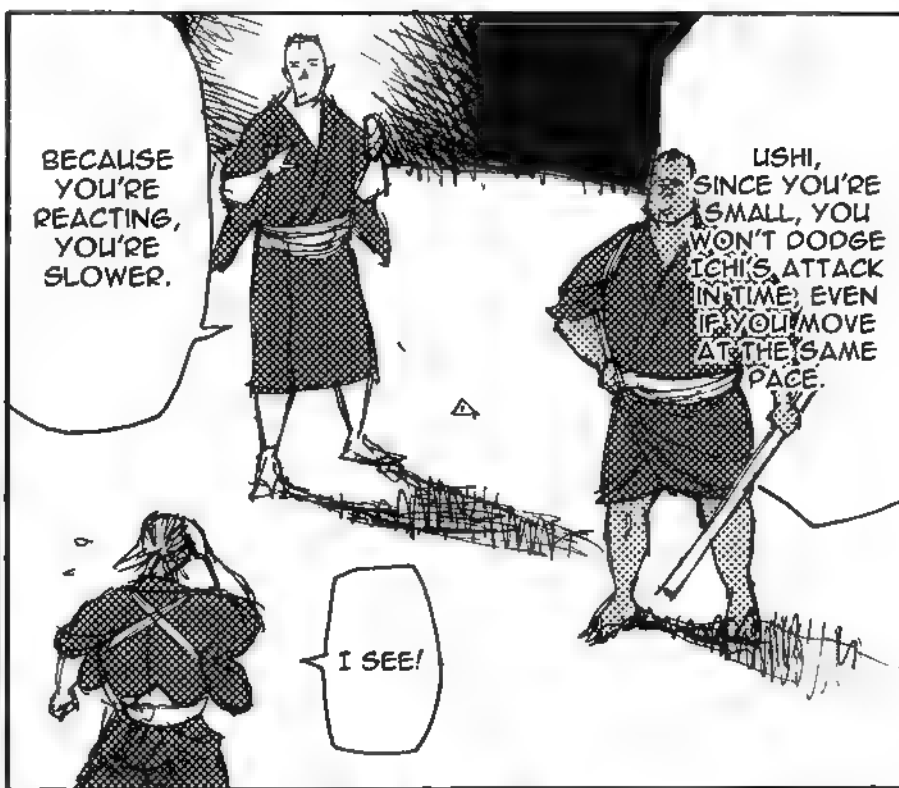
SFX:
Pop!





NOW IT'S
YOUR TURN
TO DODGE.

ALRIGHT!
LET'S
CHANGE.



BECAUSE
YOU'RE
REACTING,
YOU'RE
SLOWER.

USHI,
SINCE YOU'RE
SMALL, YOU
WON'T DODGE
ICHI'S ATTACK
IN TIME, EVEN
IF YOU MOVE
AT THE SAME
PACE.

I SEE!



TSK!

COME
AT ME,
MIDGET!



I'LL TURN
YOU INTO
CURRY!

UNLIKE
YOU, I'VE
GOT THE
HEIGHT AD-
VANTAGE.

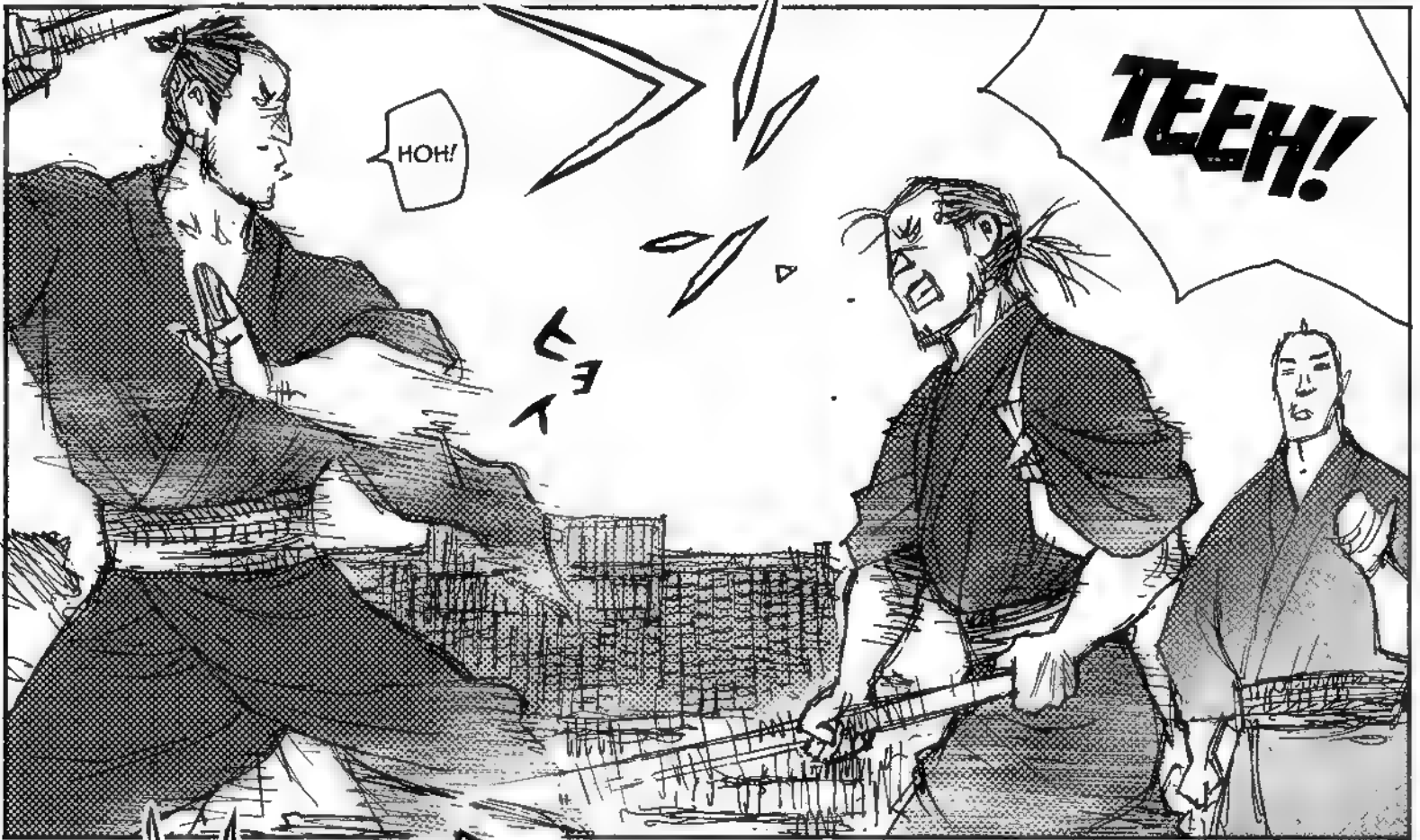


I BET
MY BREAK-
FAST THAT
ICHI WILL
DODGE IT!

THIS HAS
GOTTEN
INTEREST-
ING!



HM?



SFX:
Swish

HOH!

TEEH!



SFX:
Wham!

UGH!



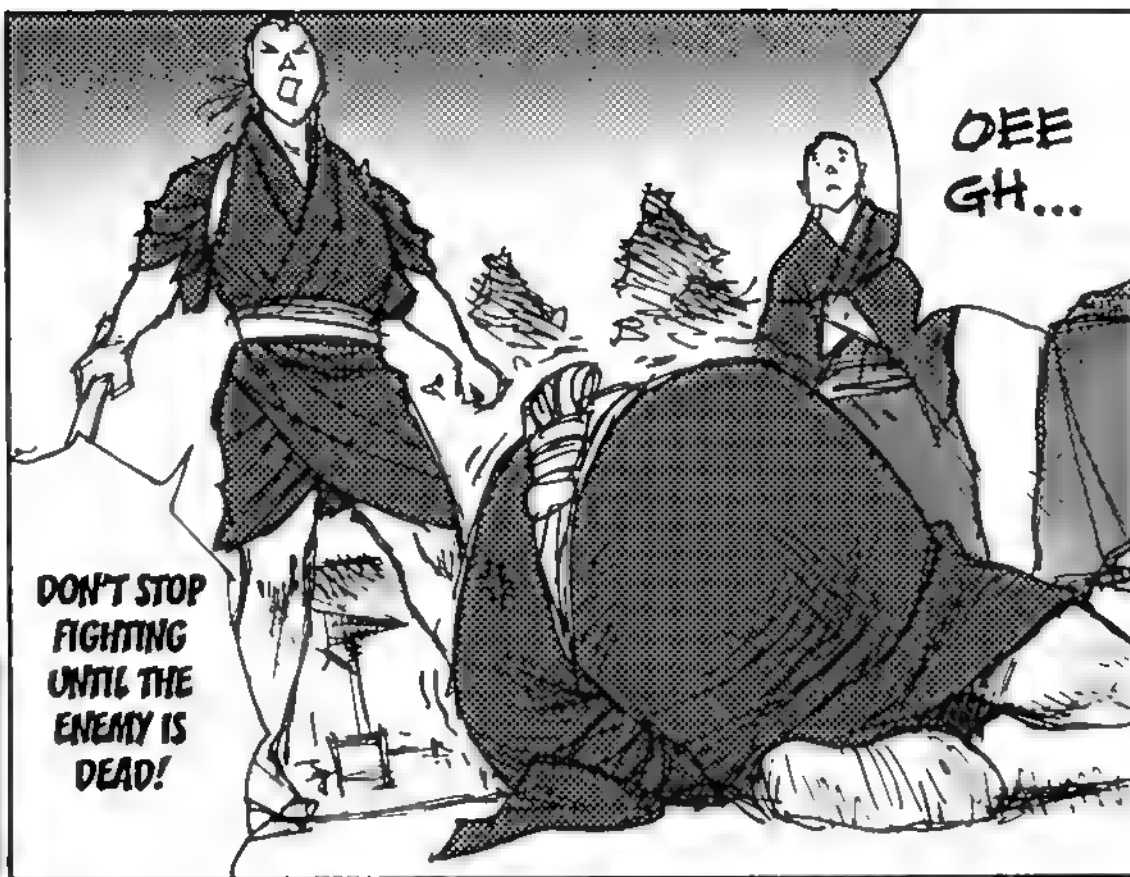
SEE?
THAT'S
WHAT I'M
REALLY
CAPABLE
OF!

WOW! YOU
DODGED IT!

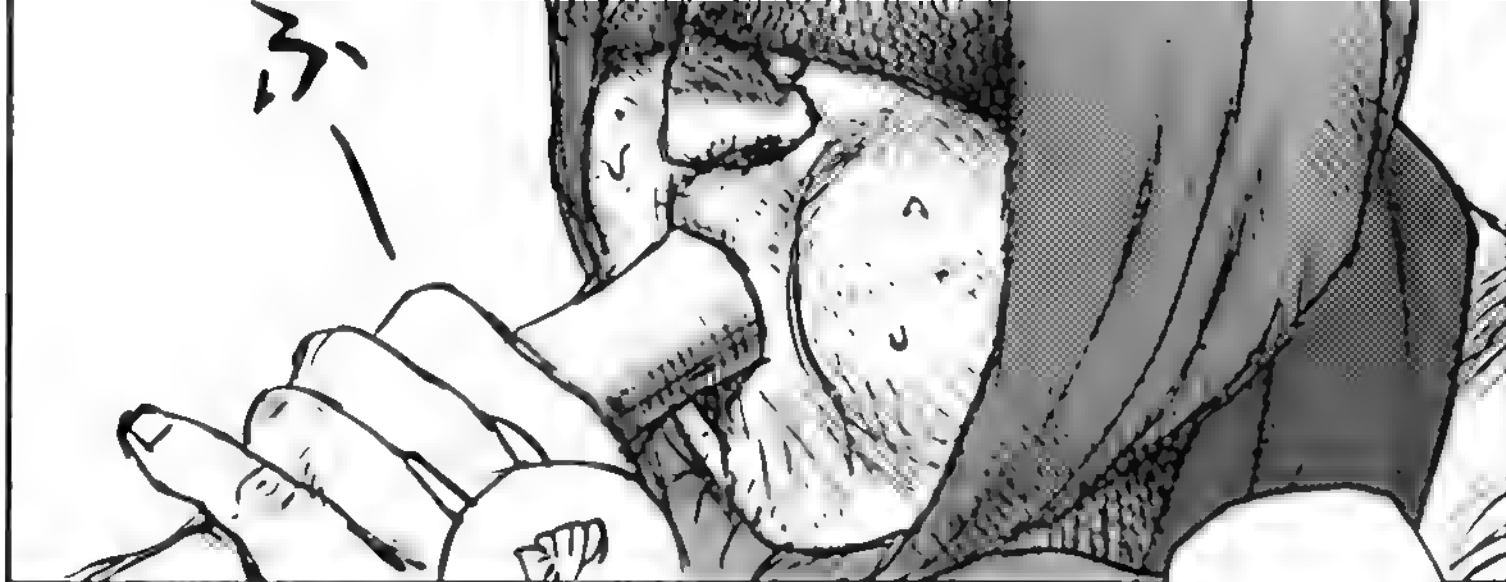
SFX:
Chuckle



HE HAS A POINT.



SFX:
Blowing



THERE
WAS INDEED
SOMEONE
WHO HELD
A COMPETI-
TION AND
HIRED TEN
PEASANTS.

I'VE
CONFIRMED
IT WITH THE
VILLAGE
GOVERNORS.

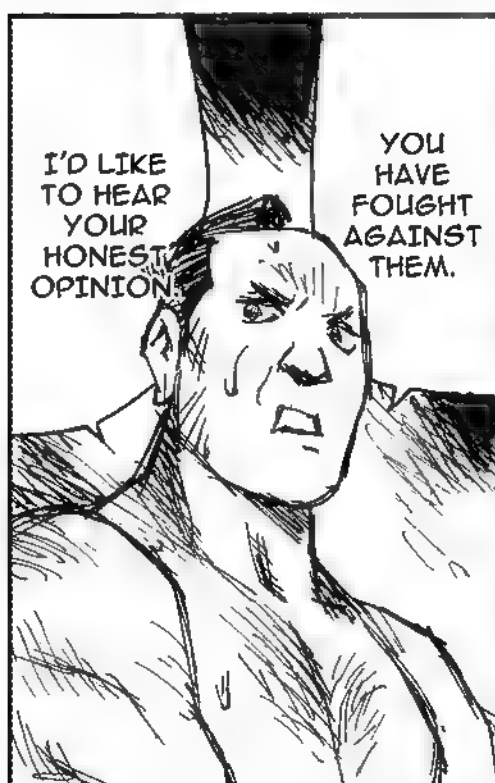


PREPOS-
TEROUS!

ARE YOU
IMPLYING
THAT A BUNCH
OF PEASANTS
WHO HAVE ONLY
TRAINED FOR
A FEW DAYS
CAUSED US
SUCH HEAVY
LOSSES?!



NOBODY
IN THE
VILLAGE
KNOWS
ABOUT
THEIR
WHERE-
ABOUTS.





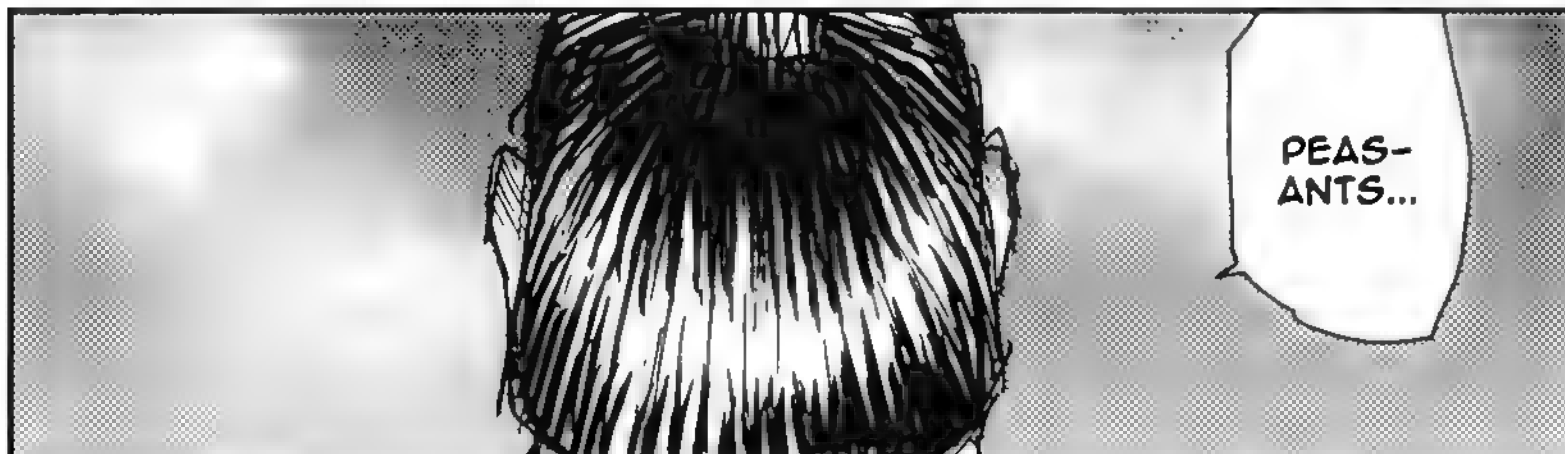
IT'S ONLY POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THIS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME IF THEY WERE PHYSICALLY FIT AND WERE FAST LEARNERS...

WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS HAS ONLY TAUGHT THEM THE VERY BASICS OF ACTUAL COMBAT. THEY HAVE BEEN ONLY THOROUGHLY TRAINED TO ATTACK.



HMM.

THOSE WHO WERE CUT DOWN WERE EITHER FACING AWAY OR WERE ABOUT TO DRAW THEIR SWORDS.



PEAS-ANTS...



I REALLY FEEL BAD FOR MAENO-SUKE...

THEY WERE KILLED BY MERE PEAS-ANTS BEFORE THEY COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING...



WHAT'S THE MATTER,

IMUOA-DONO?



WOAH!



BUT
I'VE TO
SAY...

PEAS-
ANTS...

YOU
SHOULDN'T
GET YOUR
TOWEL
WET...



I'VE TO
REPORT
THIS TO
SAGARA-
SAMA.

I'M GOING
TO RAISE
MONEY IN
ORDER TO
CRUSH THOSE
PEASANTS!



AGREEING
TO KILL
PEASANTS...

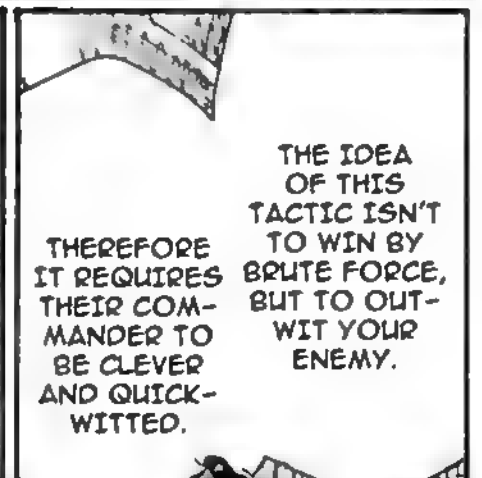
HE
WON'T
BE...

W-WAIT,
IMUDA-
DONO!





SFX:
Scribble



SFX:
Baffled



IT'S
AN UTTER
DISGRACE IF
THOSE PEAS-
ANTS CAN
GET AWAY
WITH THIS.

I'D LIKE
YOU TO GIVE
YOUR PER-
MISSION TO
ATTACK THE
VILLAGES
OF THOSE
PEASANTS.

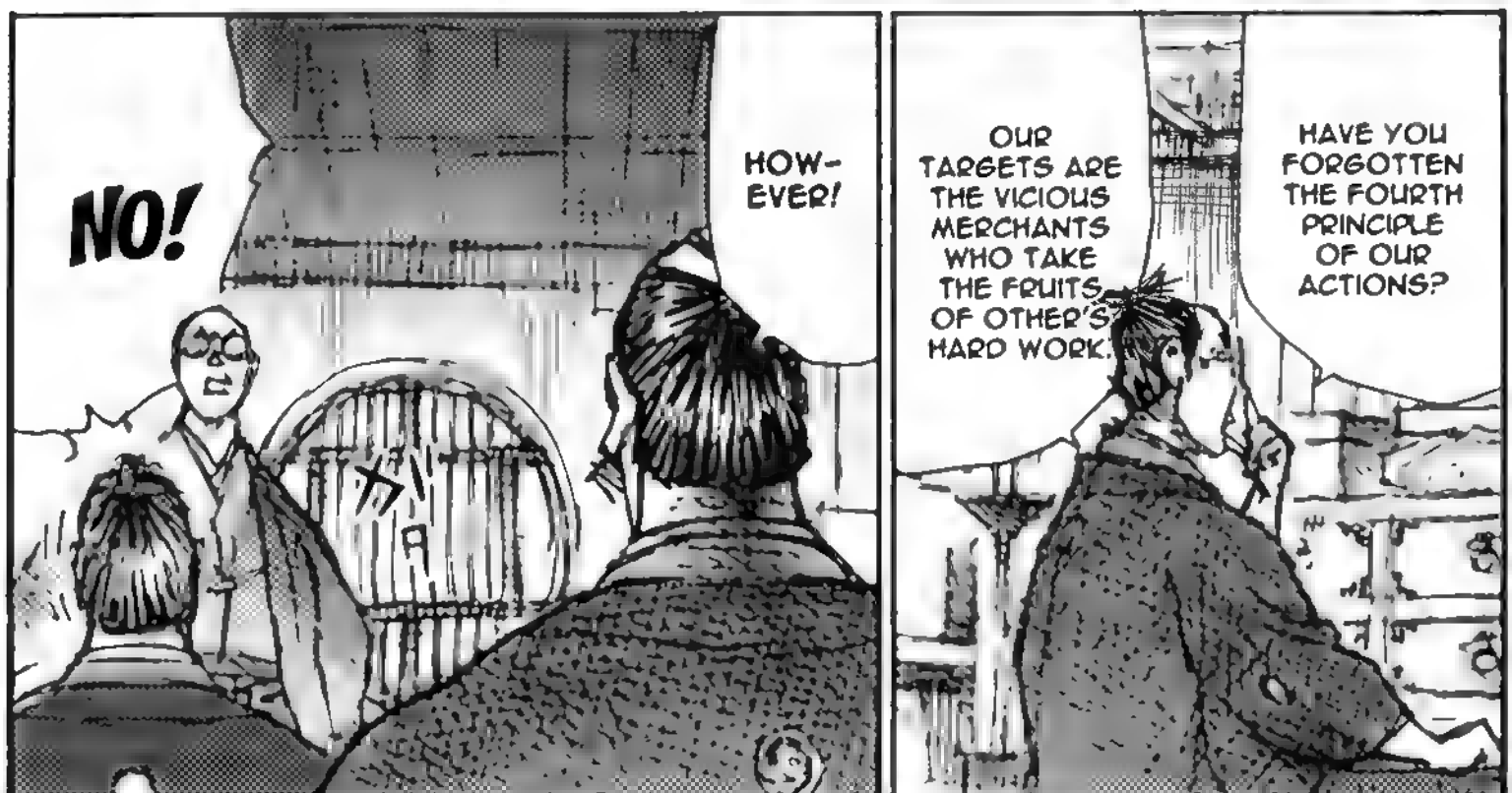
IN THAT
CASE,
SAGARA-
SAMA,



AS LONG
AS WE DON'T
KNOW WHERE
THE ENEMY'S
HQ IS, WE
CAN'T RAN-
SACK THEIR
VILLAGES.

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

HUH?

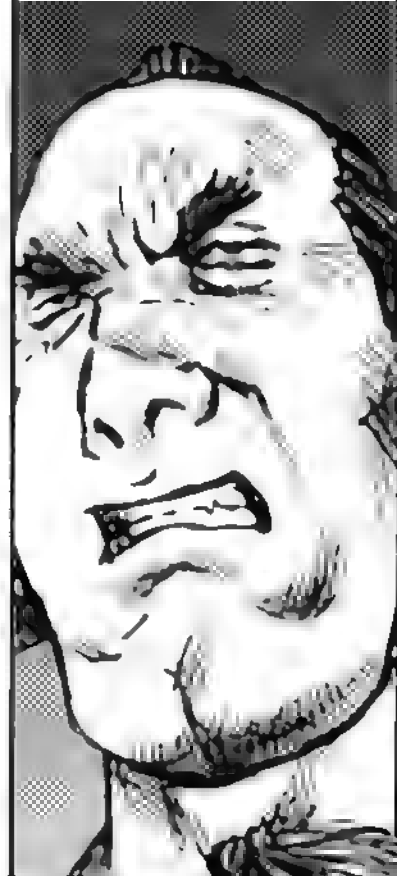


NO!

HOW-
EVER!

OUR
TARGETS ARE
THE VICIOUS
MERCHANTS
WHO TAKE
THE FRUITS
OF OTHER'S
HARD WORK.

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
THE FOURTH
PRINCIPLE
OF OUR
ACTIONS?



WE HAVE
NO TIME
TO WASTE
FOR STUPID
PERSONAL
GRUDGES!



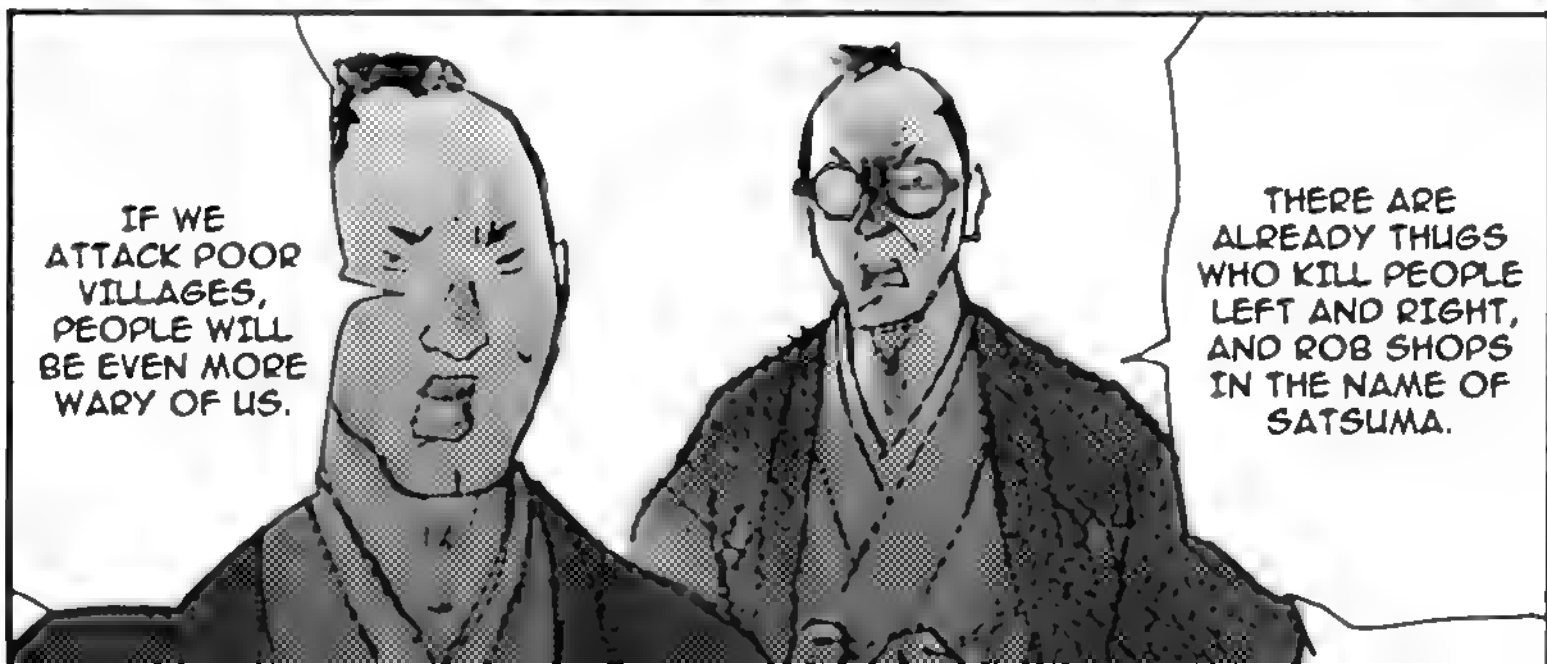
THIS IS
THE TIME
WHERE WE
HAVE TO PUSH
OUT THE BAR-
BARIANS FOR
THE SAKE OF
THE FATHER-
LAND!



STOP IT,
MUDA-
DANO!

WHO DID
YOU CALL
STUPID?!

ARE YOU
TELLING ME
THAT I CAN'T
EVEN FEEL SORRY
FOR MY FALLEN
FRIEND, OUR
COMRADE?!



IF WE
ATTACK POOR
VILLAGES,
PEOPLE WILL
BE EVEN MORE
WARY OF US.

THERE ARE
ALREADY THUGS
WHO KILL PEOPLE
LEFT AND RIGHT,
AND ROB SHOPS
IN THE NAME OF
SATSUMA.





IN OUR
CURRENT
SITUATION
IT WILL BE
DIFFICULT TO
CONTINUE
THEM.

SO HOW
DO WE
CONTINUE
WITH THE
TERROR
ATTACKS?



HOWEVER,
IN RETURN, WE
WILL ATTACK A
MORE STRATE-
GIC TARGET THAT
WILL HURT THE
ENEMY MORE.

WE'LL
ATTACK
THE POLICE
STATIONS
IN THE
CITY.

WHICH
MEANS...



IT'S
INEVITABLE
THAT WE MUST
REDUCE THE
FREQUENCY OF
OUR ATTACKS,
THOUGH...

THEY HAVE
TO CONTINUE
NO MATTER
WHAT!



WE HAVE
TO SHOW
THEM NO
MERCY, OR
THE ENEMY
WINS THIS.

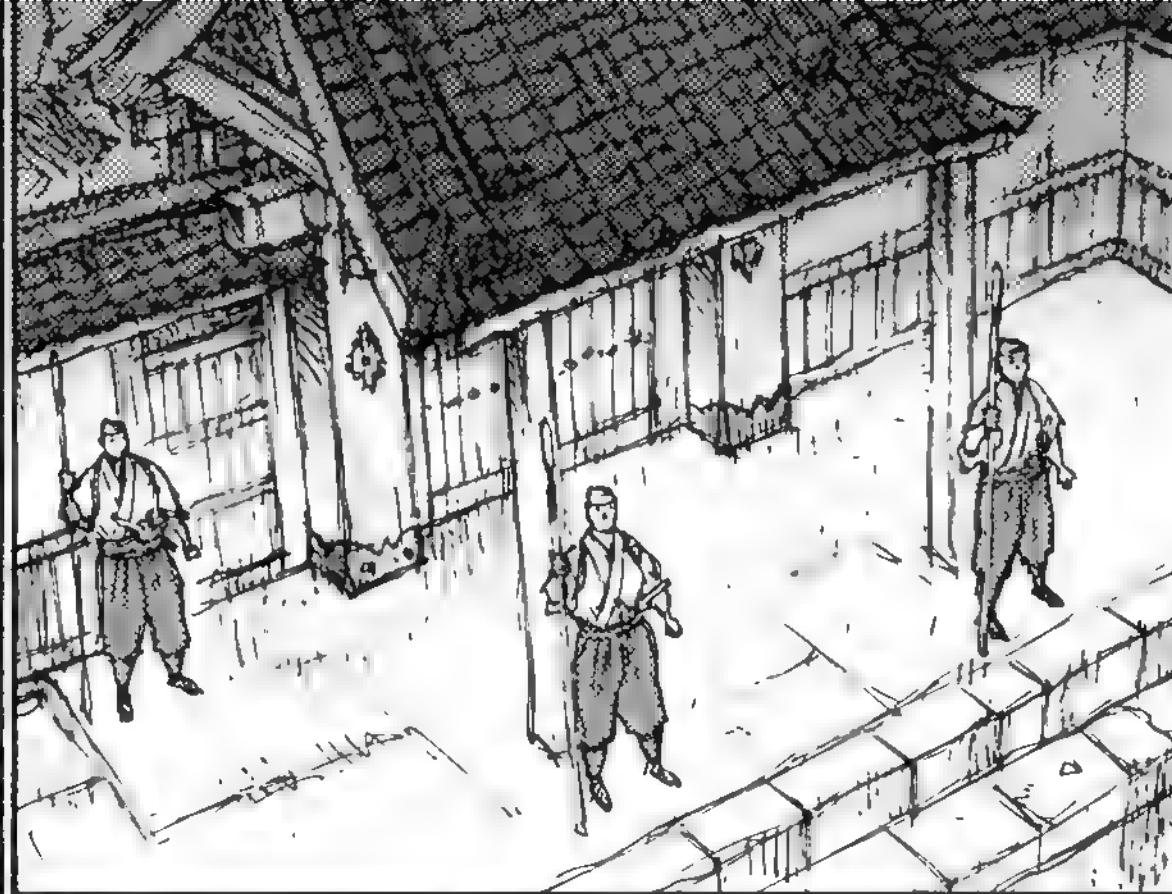
AT THIS
POINT, WE
DEVISE A
BOLD PLAN
AND HIT THEM
RIGHT IN
THE GUT.

THIS IS
YOUR OP-
PORTUNITY
TO SHINE,
MASUMITSU-
KUN.



THE...

THE
SHINCHOU-
GUMI?



SFX:
Gunshots,
bullets
whizzing.

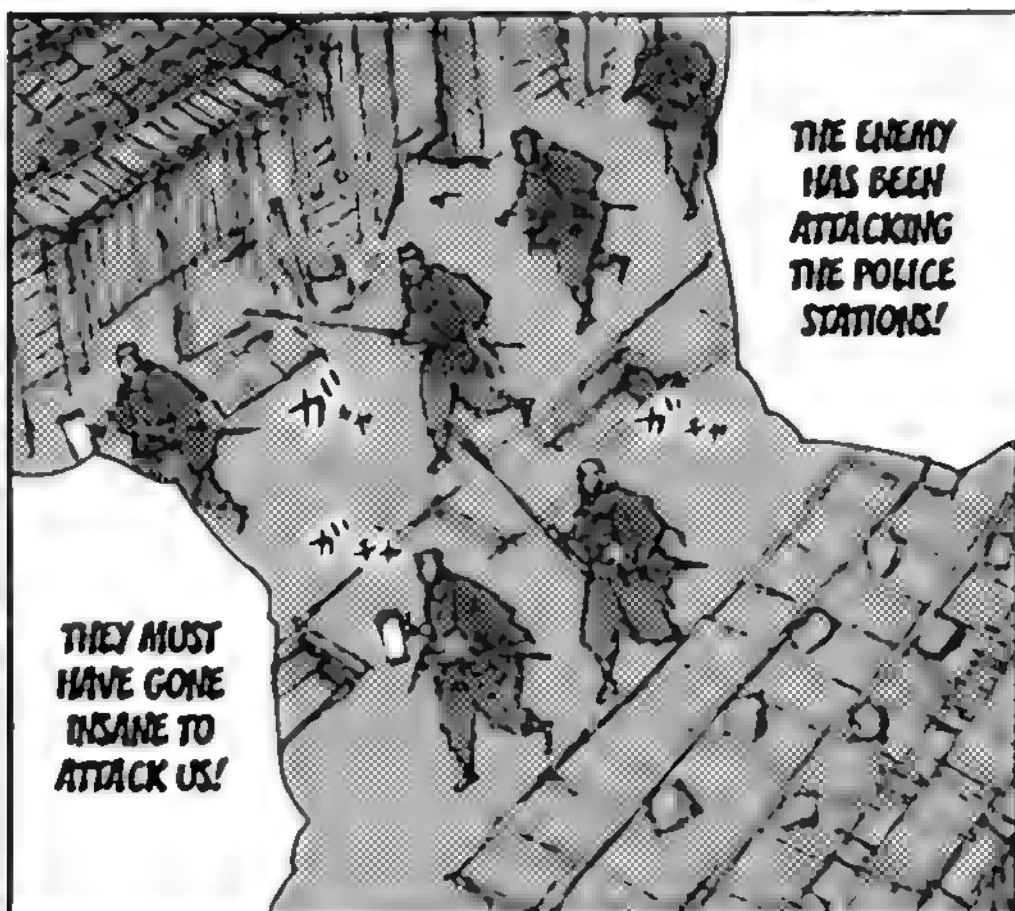


THE POLICE
STATION IN
AKABANE HAS
BEEN ATTACKED
AS WELL!



THEY'VE
PROBABLY
RETIRED TO
THEIR HIDEOUT
ALREADY...

EVEN IF
WE'RE IN
THE CITY,
IT'LL BE
HARD TO
HUNT THEM
DOWN.



THE ENEMY
HAS BEEN
ATTACKING
THE POLICE
STATIONS!

THEY MUST
HAVE GONE
INSANE TO
ATTACK US!



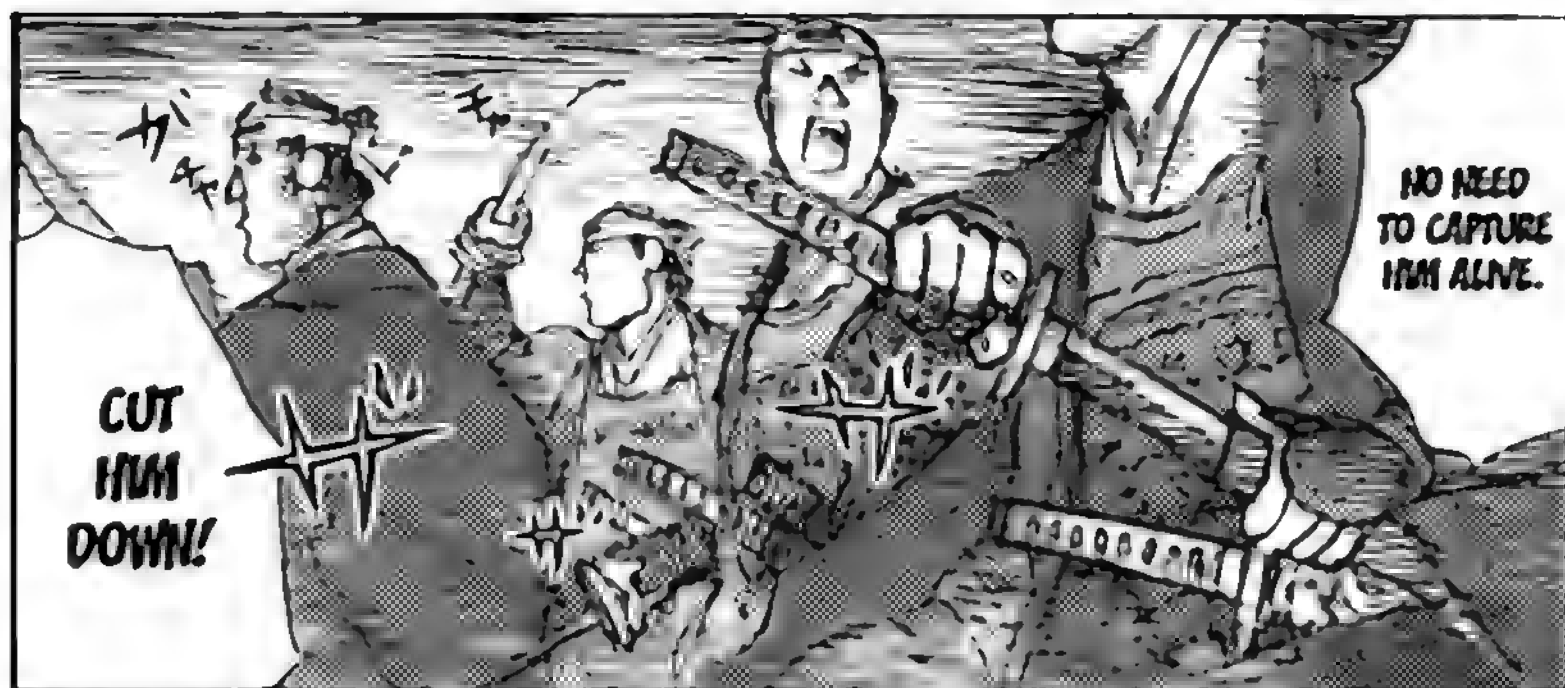
HA?!



THOSE
DAMN
SATSUMA
THINGS...

SFX:
Whhhack







SFX:
Whoosh!
Rushing



SFX:
Clang
grab.



SFX:
Pull
Spin

SFX:
Slash

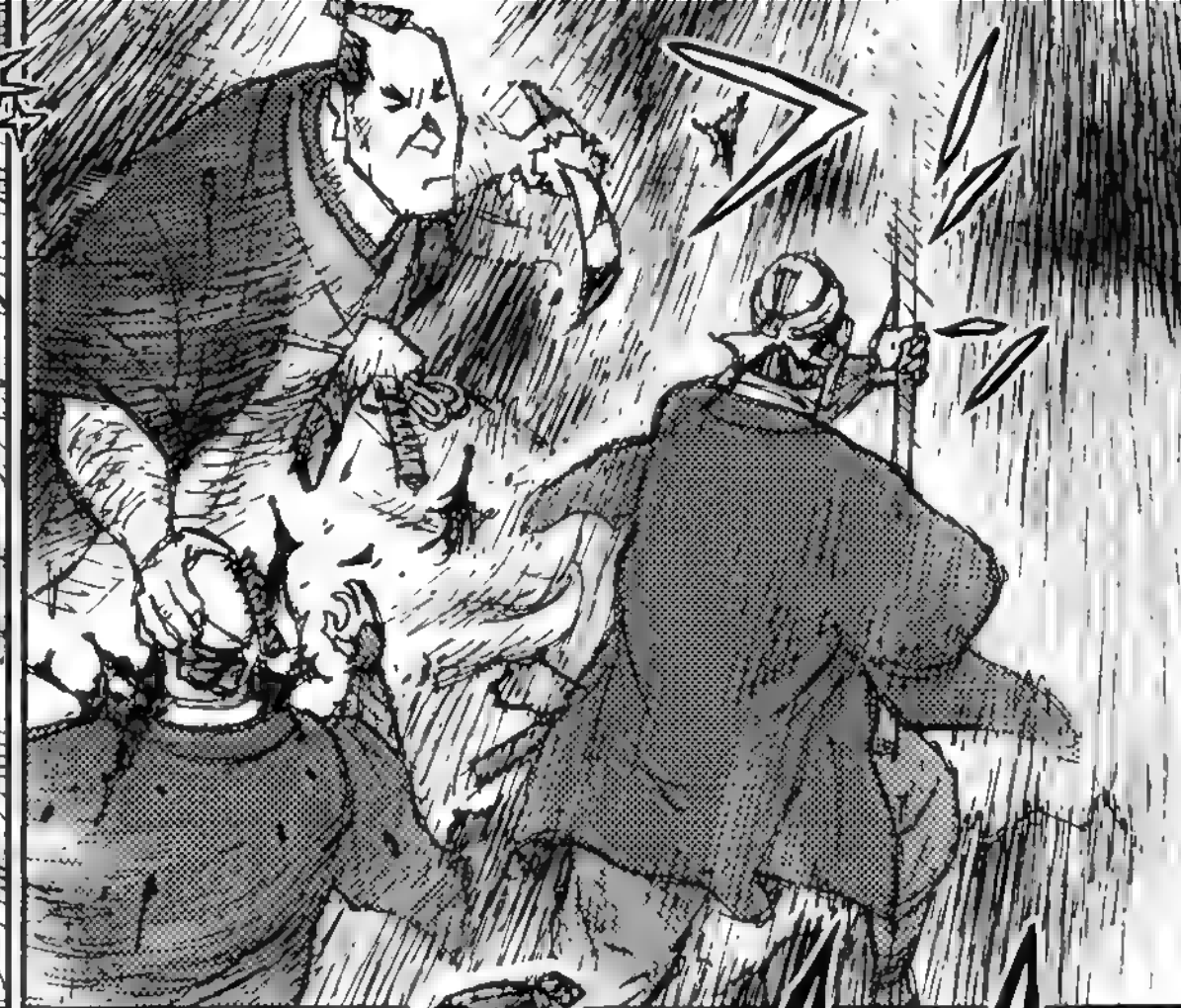


SFX:
Whoosh
whack



SFX:
Whaw!





SFX:
Swish!
Clang,
whish



SFX:
Saa-
slash

SFX:
Oooh!



SFX:
Ka-
thunk!



SFX:
Squish

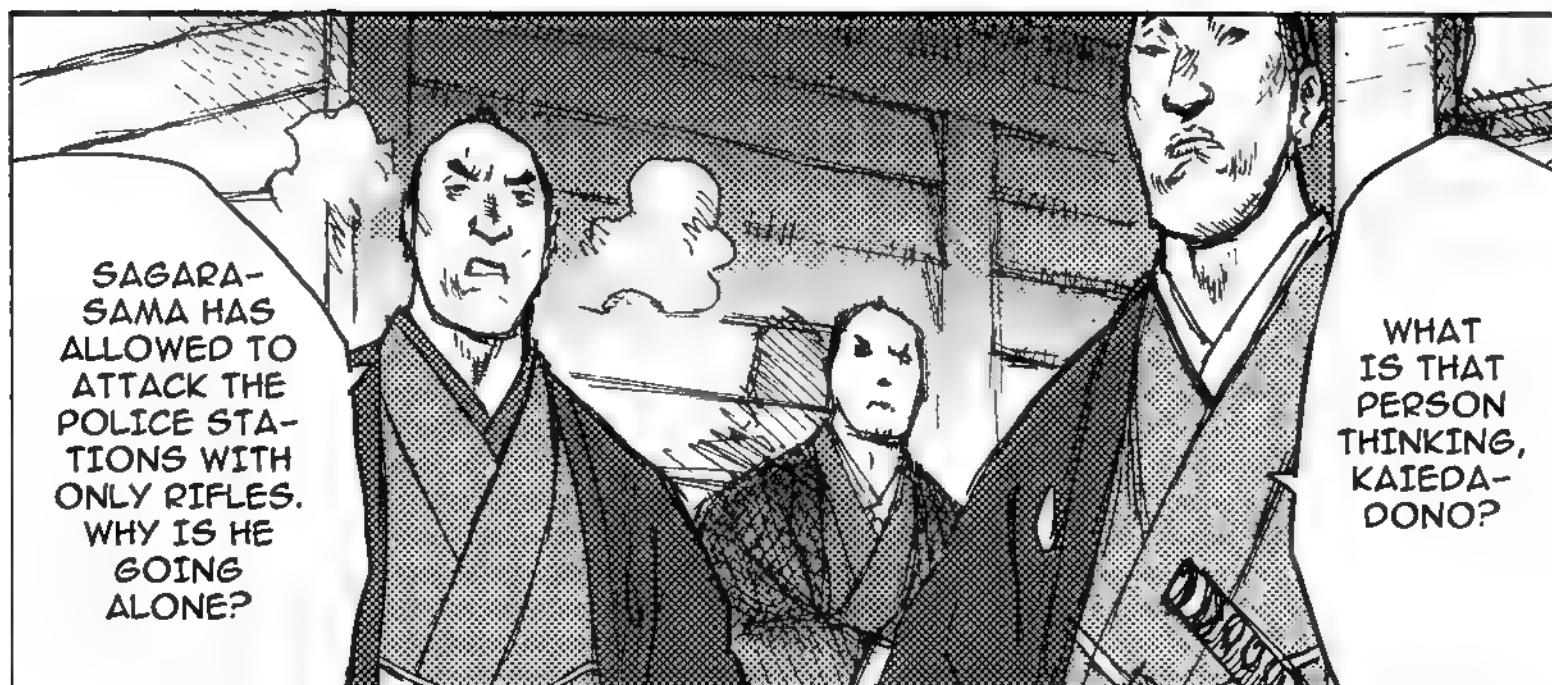


SFX:
Wham!



SFX:
Clang





SAGARA-SAMA HAS ALLOWED TO ATTACK THE POLICE STATIONS WITH ONLY RIFLES. WHY IS HE GOING ALONE?

WHAT IS THAT PERSON THINKING, KAIEDA-DONO?



WE DON'T WANT HIM AS AN ENEMY.

YES, BUT AS A SWORDSMAN HE IS SUPERB.



SFX:
Ba-bonk!



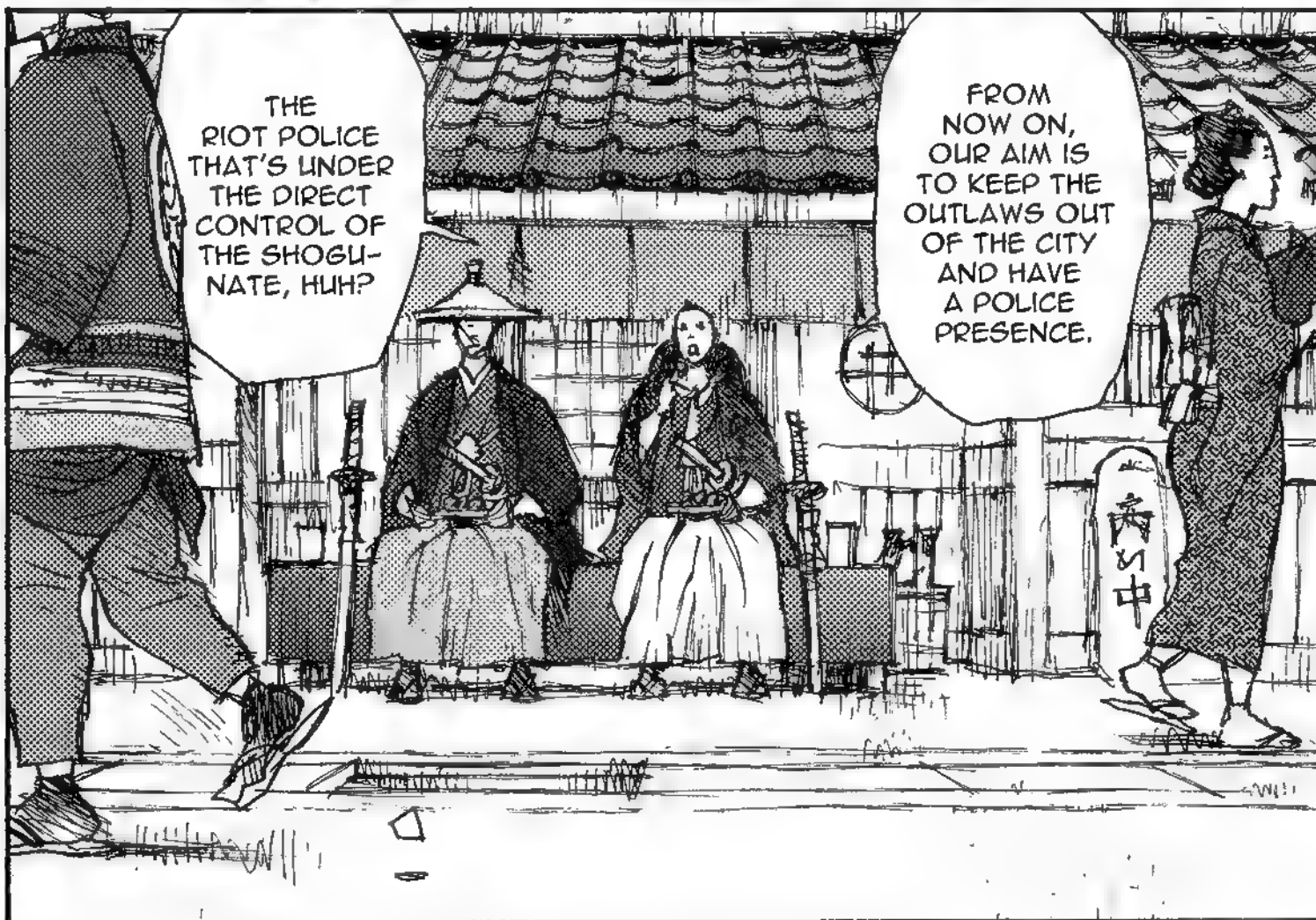
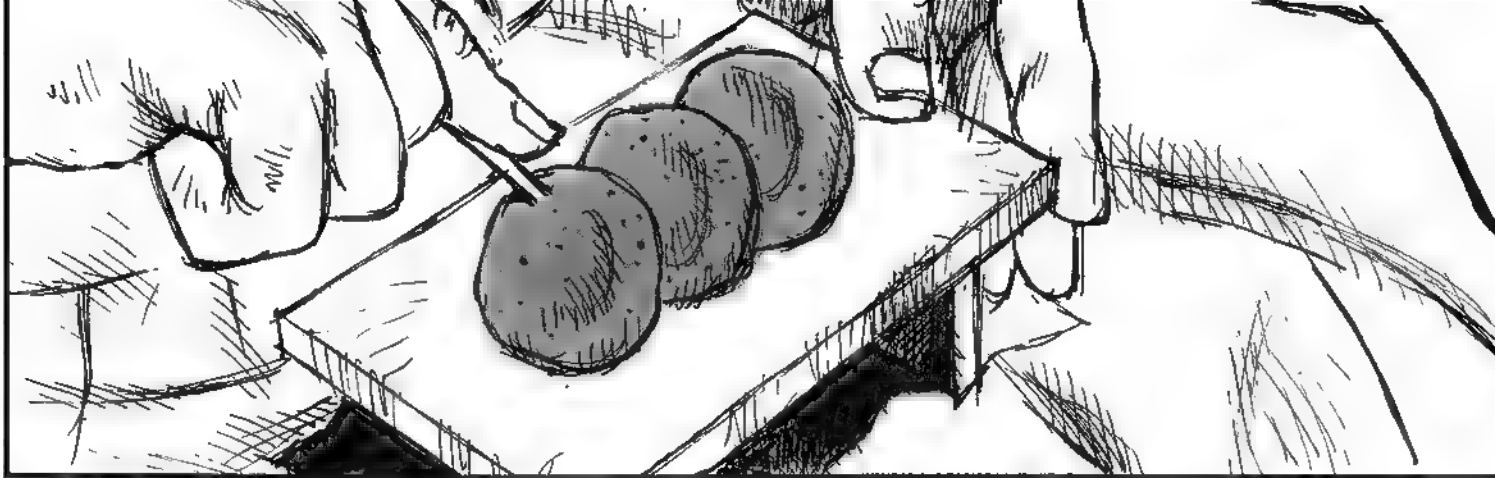
GA
HAHA
HA!


HII
II!

TOLD
YOU,
YOU'RE
TOO
SLOW,
USHI!



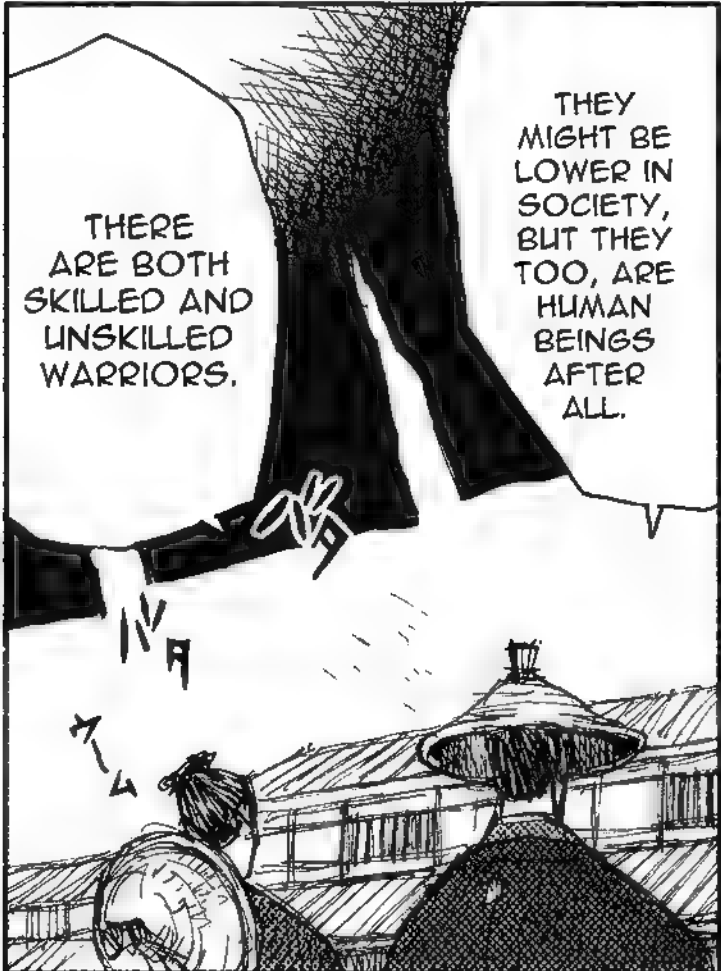
CHAPTER 9 LOVE LETTER






IT JUST PROVES THAT THEY ARE BY NO MEANS INFERIOR TO SAMURAI.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE ARE MANY WARRIORS ENROLLING IN THE SHINSEN-GUMI THAT DON'T HAVE SAMURAI STATUS.




THERE ARE BOTH SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WARRIORS.

THEY MIGHT BE LOWER IN SOCIETY, BUT THEY TOO, ARE HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL.

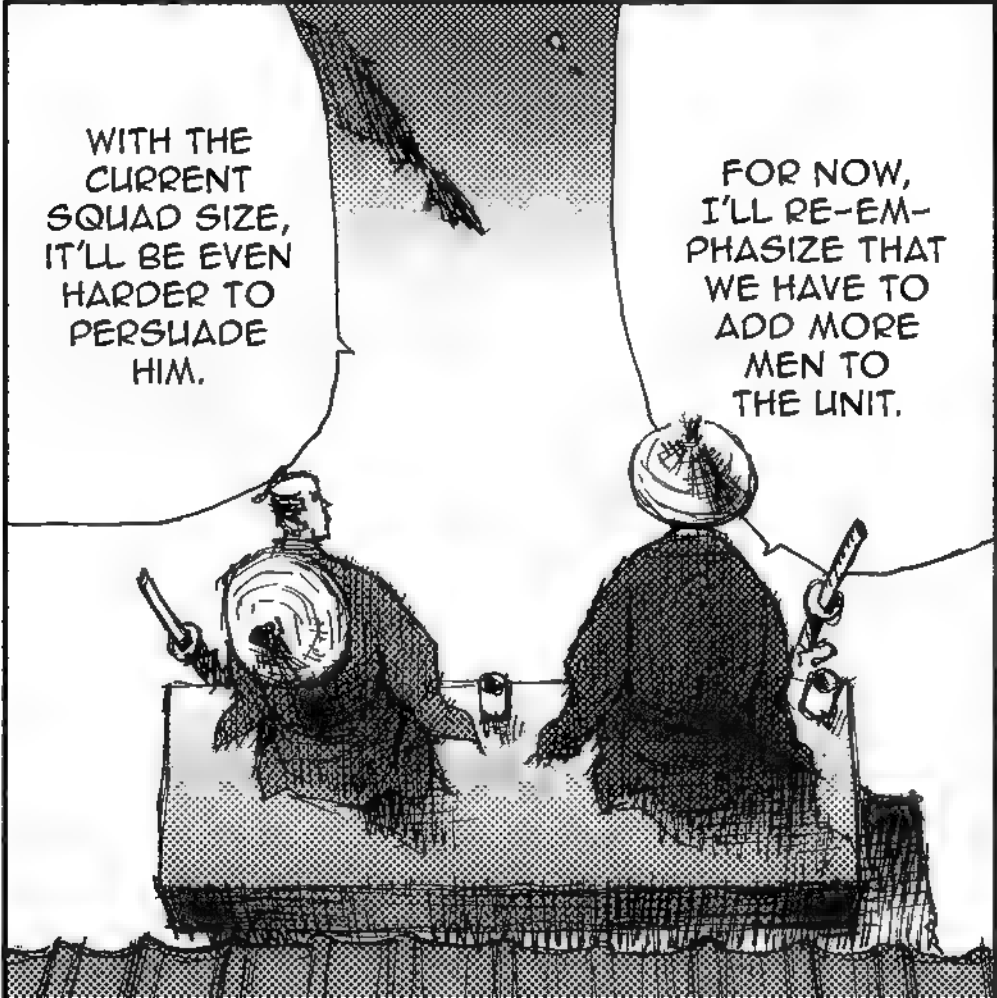


YOU MEAN THE PEASANTS?



IN FACT, THEY ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE BECAUSE OF THEIR TALENTS.

SFX:
Flapping.
Hmmm.



WITH THE CURRENT SQUAD SIZE, IT'LL BE EVEN HARDER TO PERSUADE HIM.

FOR NOW, I'LL RE-EMPHASIZE THAT WE HAVE TO ADD MORE MEN TO THE UNIT.

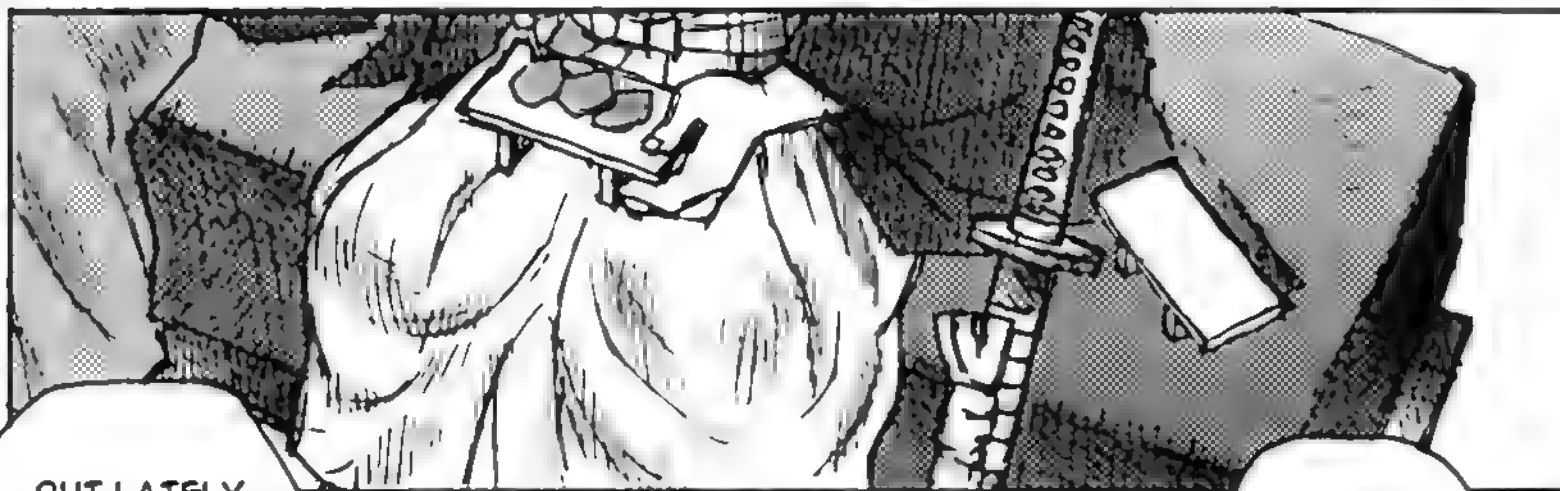
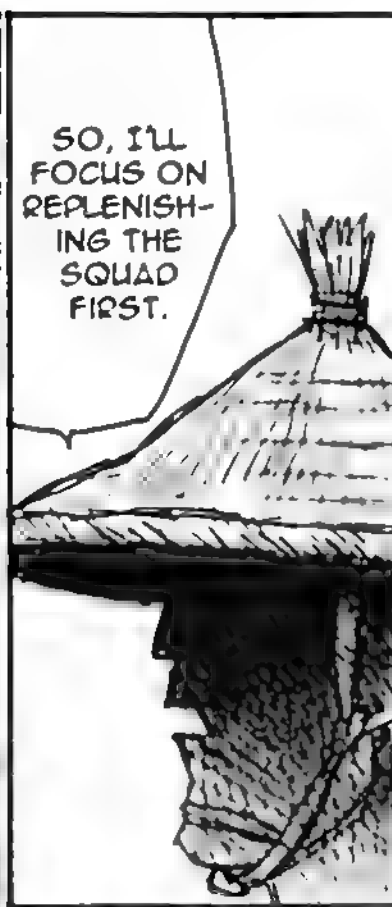
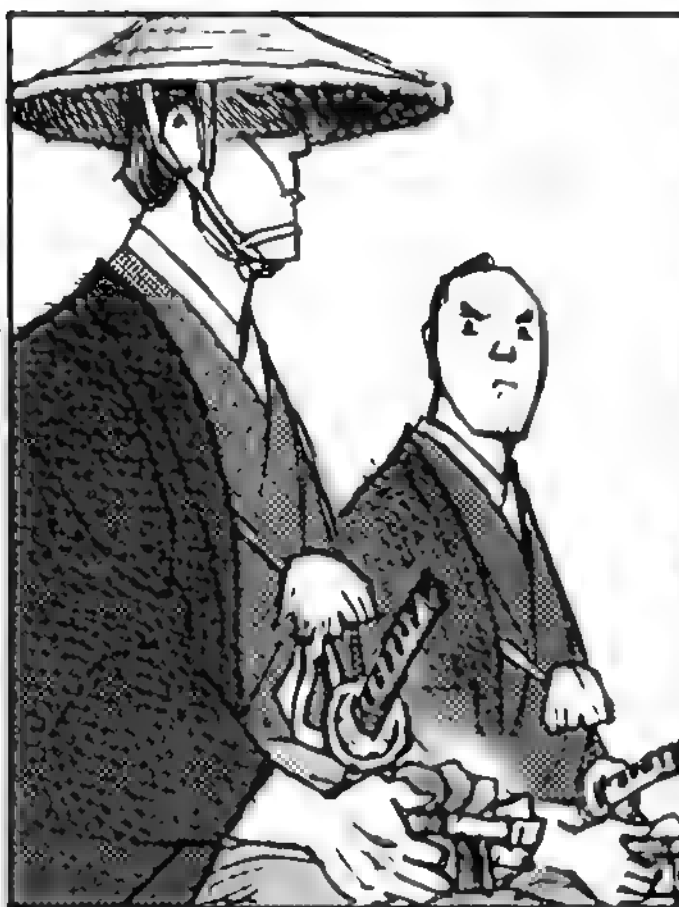


GOING TO PROPOSE YOUR PLAN TO KATSU-SAMA?

SO, ARE YOU

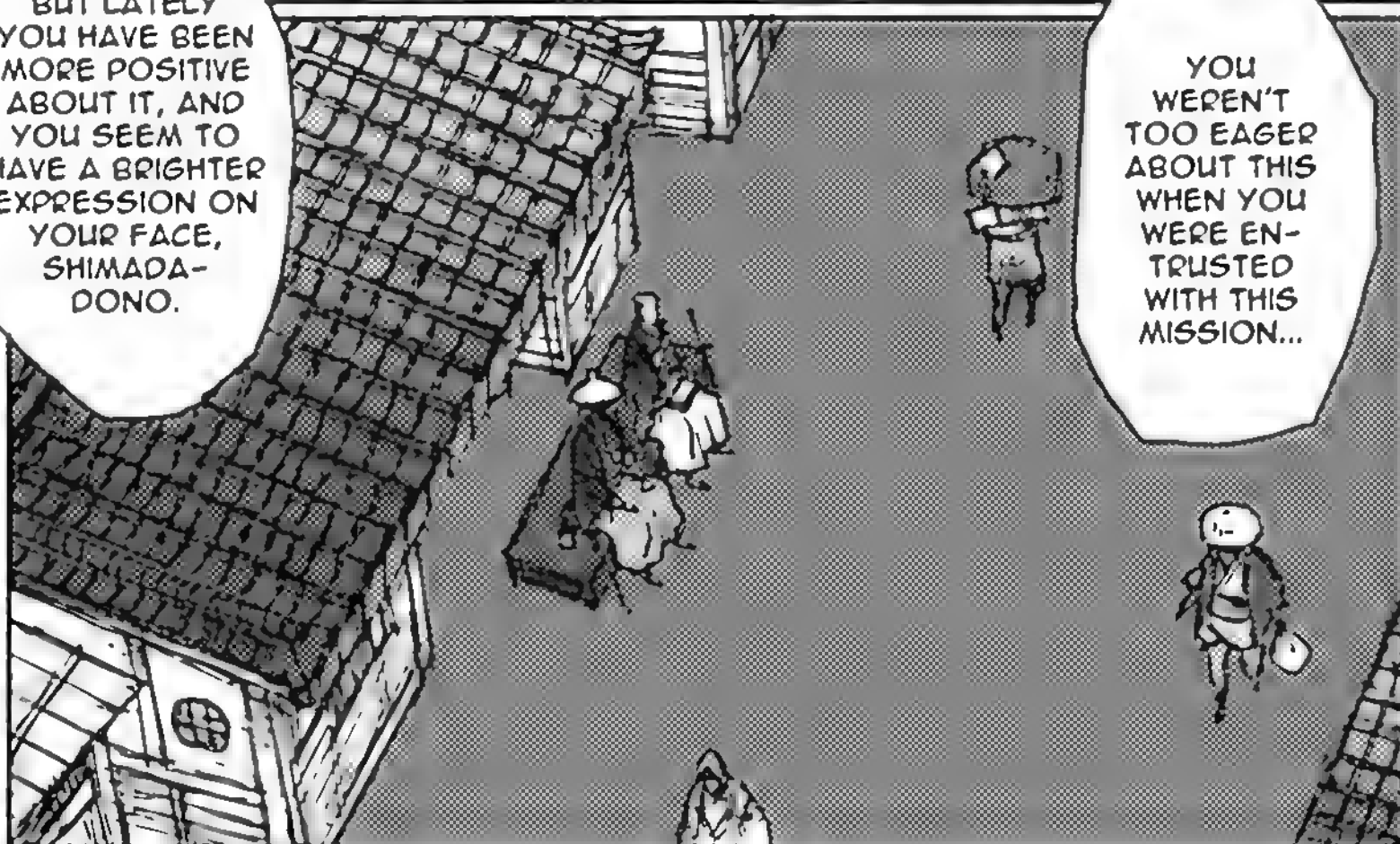


SHIMADA-DONO...
IF YOU
AREN'T
EATING
THOSE
RICE
DUMP-
LINGS...



BUT LATELY
YOU HAVE BEEN
MORE POSITIVE
ABOUT IT, AND
YOU SEEM TO
HAVE A BRIGHTER
EXPRESSION ON
YOUR FACE,
SHIMADA-
DONO.

YOU
WEREN'T
TOO EAGER
ABOUT THIS
WHEN YOU
WERE EN-
TRUSTED
WITH THIS
MISSION...



SFX:
Stare



ME?

A
BRIGHTER
EXPRES-
SION?



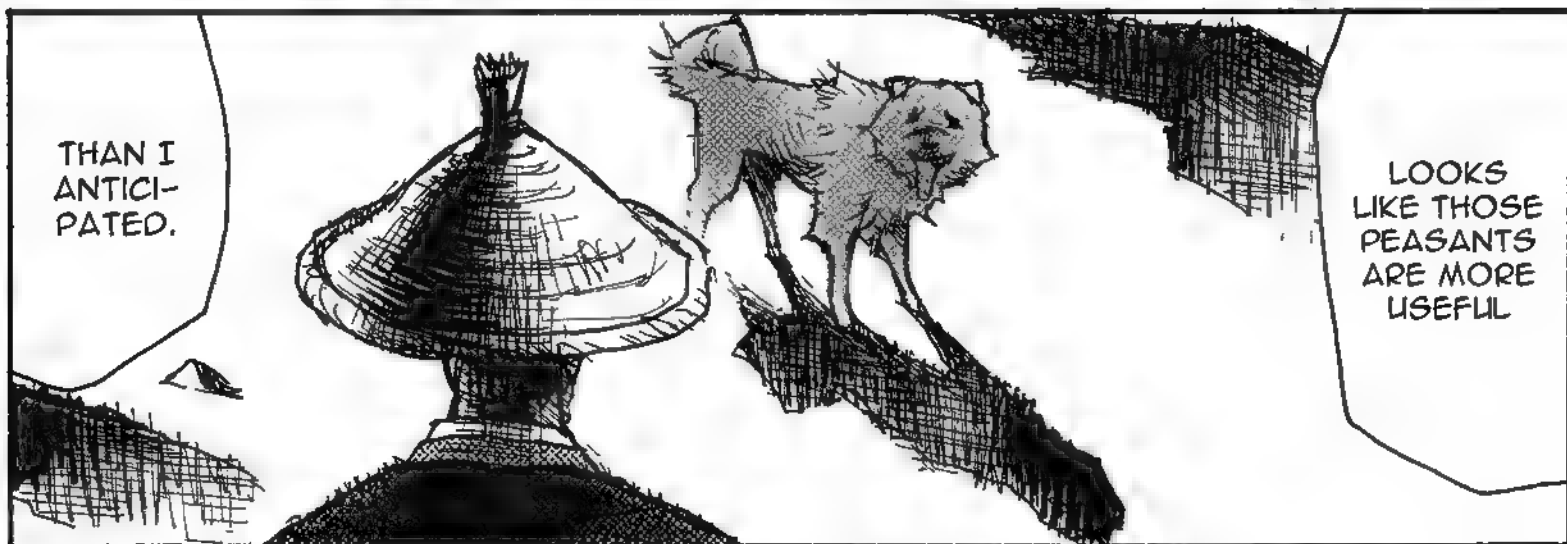
YEAH.

SFX:
Slowly



I
WONDER
...

THERE'S
NO MIS-
TAKE.

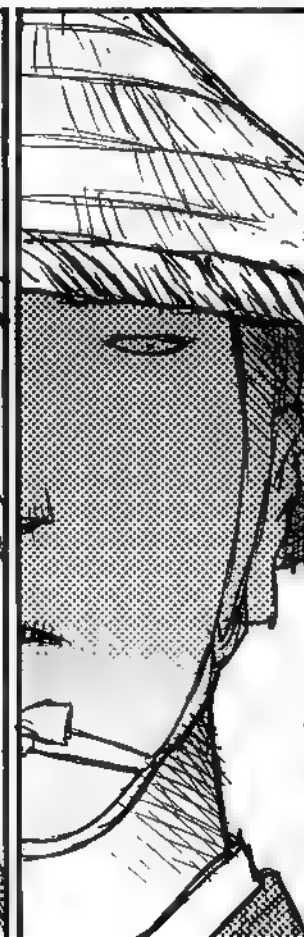


THAN I
ANTICI-
PATED.

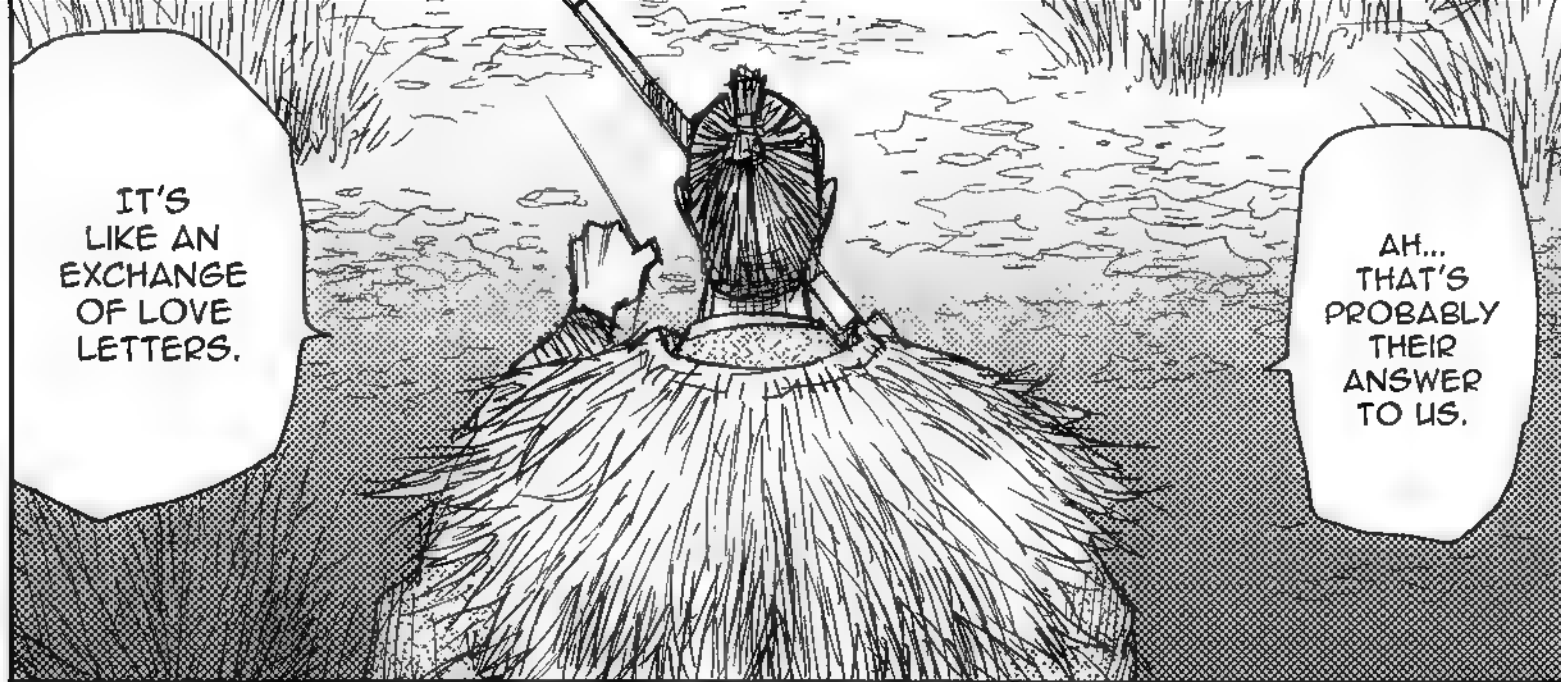
LOOKS
LIKE THOSE
PEASANTS
ARE MORE
USEFUL



WE BETTER
GET GOING,
OR WE'LL
BE LATE...







IT'S
LIKE AN
EXCHANGE
OF LOVE
LETTERS.

AH...
THAT'S
PROBABLY
THEIR
ANSWER
TO US.



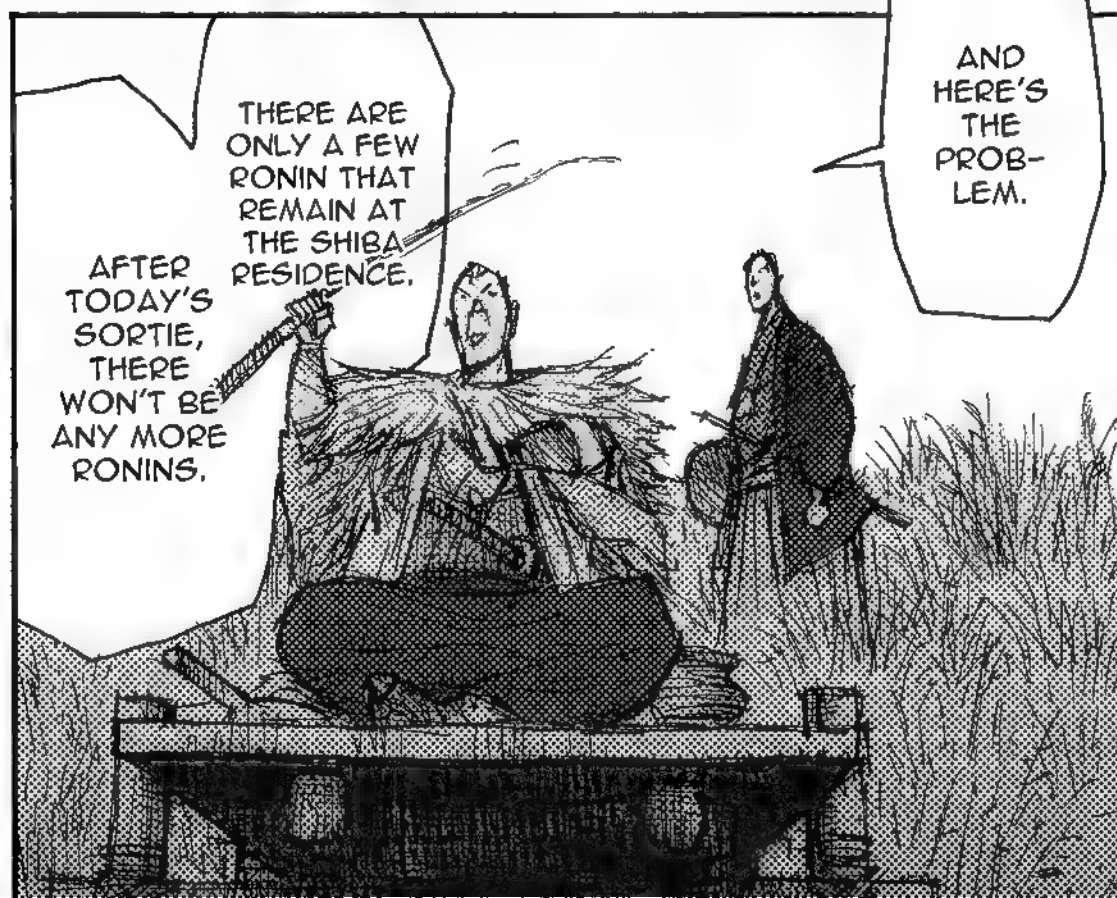
AH...
WHAT A
TOUCHING
LOVE LETTER.
IT REALLY
MOVES MY
HEART...
DON'T YOU
AGREE?

POLICE
STATIONS
WITH GUNS,
THE DAMAGE
IS MUCH
GREATER
FOR THE GOV-
ERNOR.

EVEN
IF IT'S
A SMALL
SCALE
ASSAULT,
IF THEY'RE
ATTACK-
ING

AS A
RESULT,
IT'LL BE
EXTREMELY
HARD FOR
THEM TO
COMMIT
TERRORIST
ATTACKS.

THANKS
TO THE ONE
STRIKE SQUAD
THAT YOU'RE
LEADING,
SATSUMA'S
RONINS ARE
ANNIHIL-
LATED.



AFTER
TODAY'S
SORTIE,
THERE
WON'T BE
ANY MORE
RONINS.

THERE ARE
ONLY A FEW
RONIN THAT
REMAIN AT
THE SHIBA
RESIDENCE.

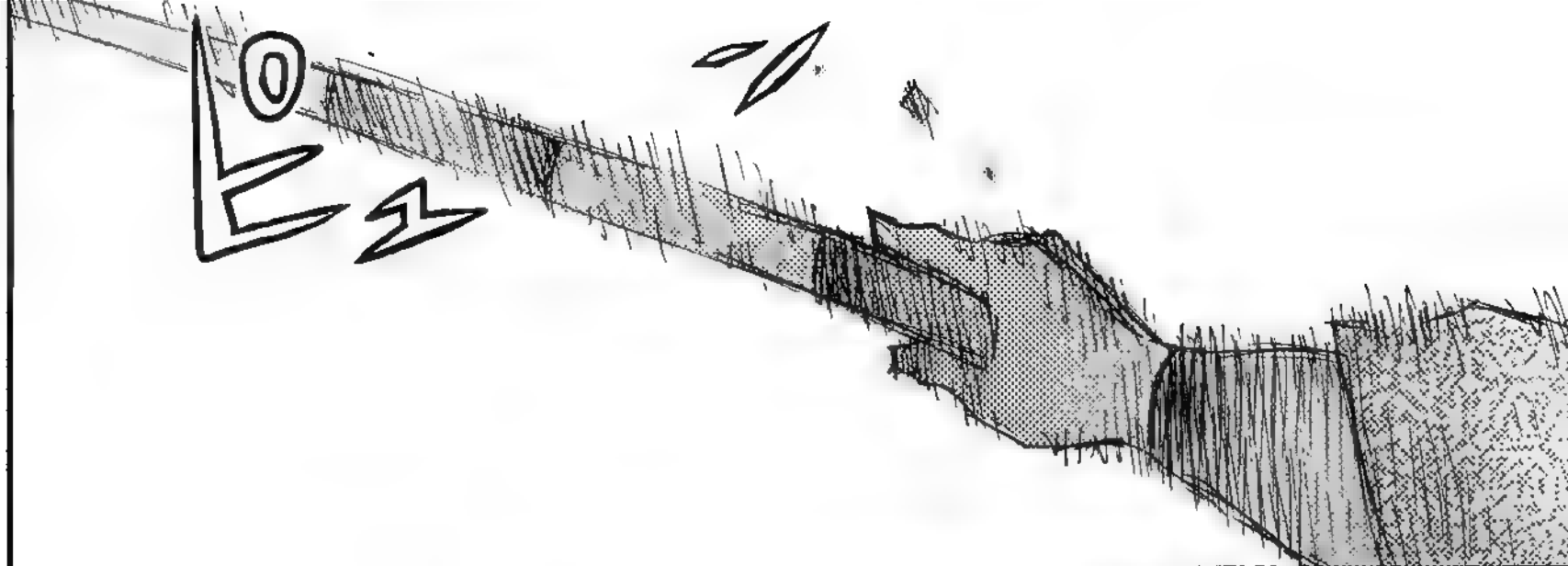
AND
HERE'S
THE PRO-
BLEM.

WE HAVE
TO GIVE
THEM OUR
ANSWER...

IN
THAT
CASE



SFX:
Swoosh



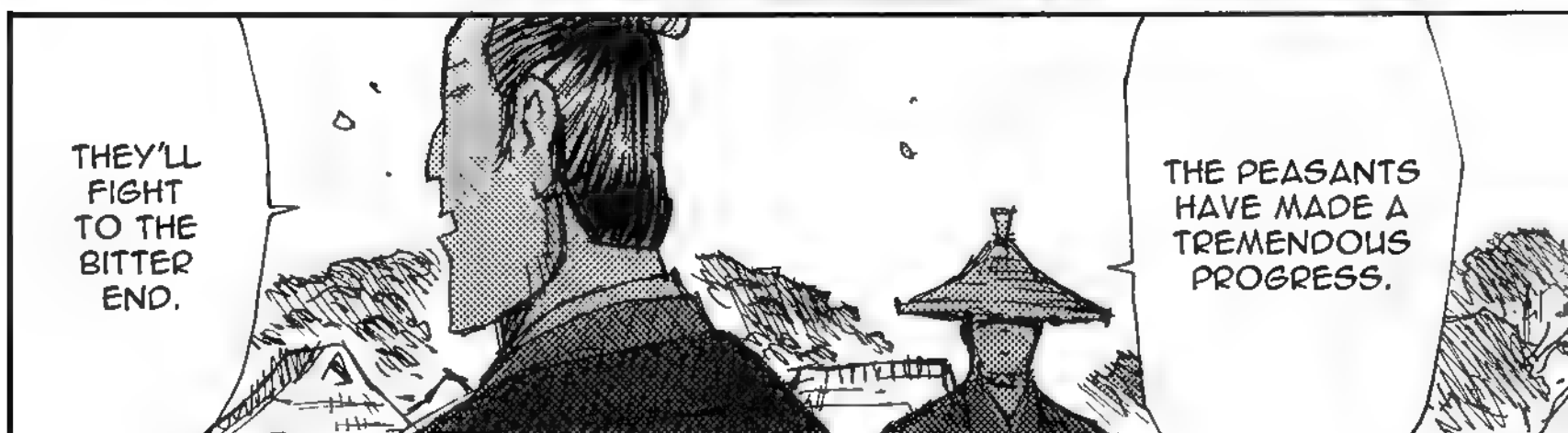
IT'LL BE
TOUGH.

THERE'LL
BE ONLY
SATSUMA
THUGS
LEFT.



THEY'LL
FIGHT
TO THE
BITTER
END.

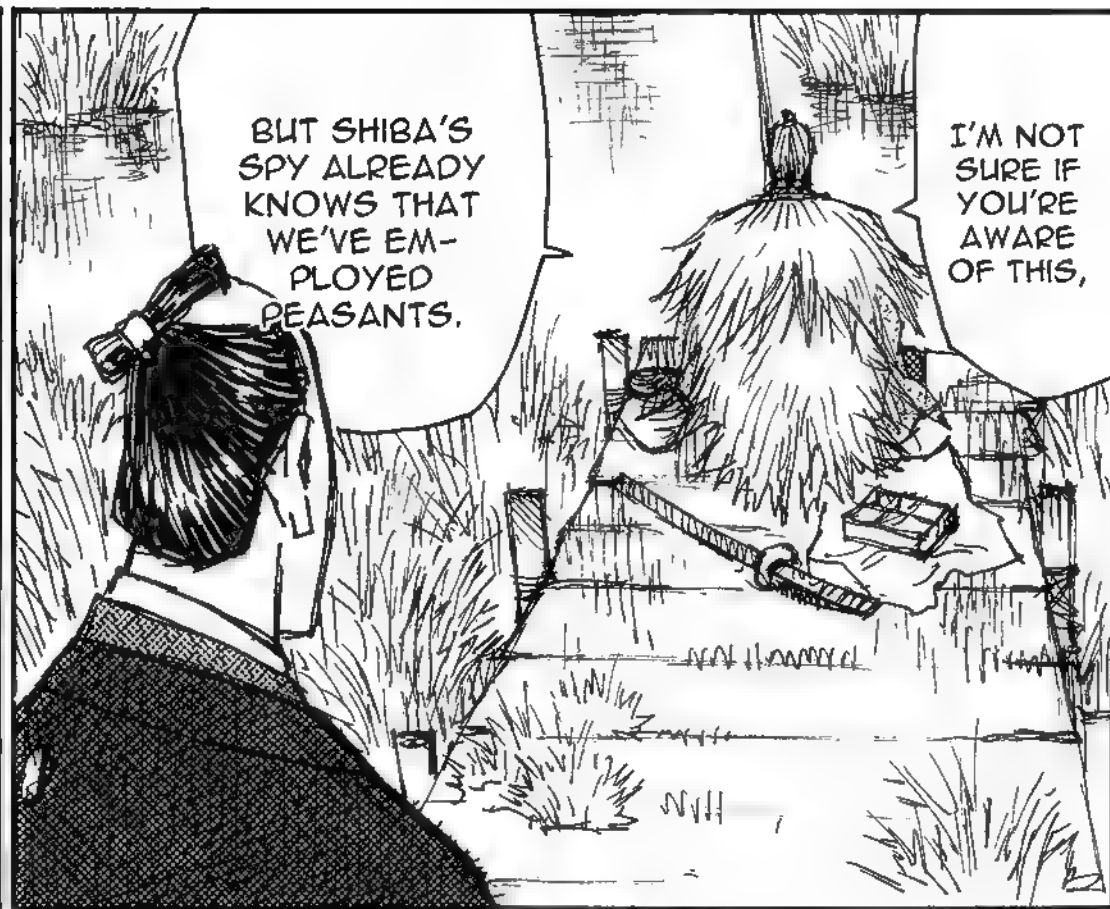
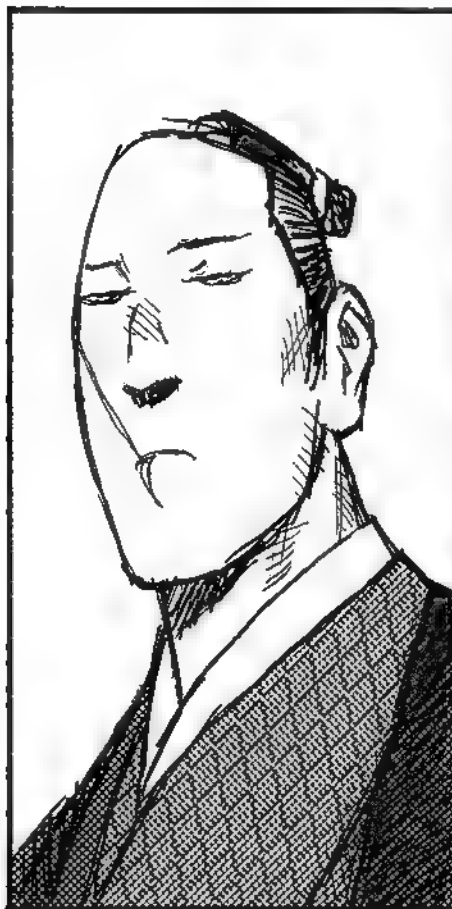
THE PEASANTS
HAVE MADE A
TREMENDOUS
PROGRESS.



PLEASE
RECONSIDER
YOUR
DECISION,
MILORD.

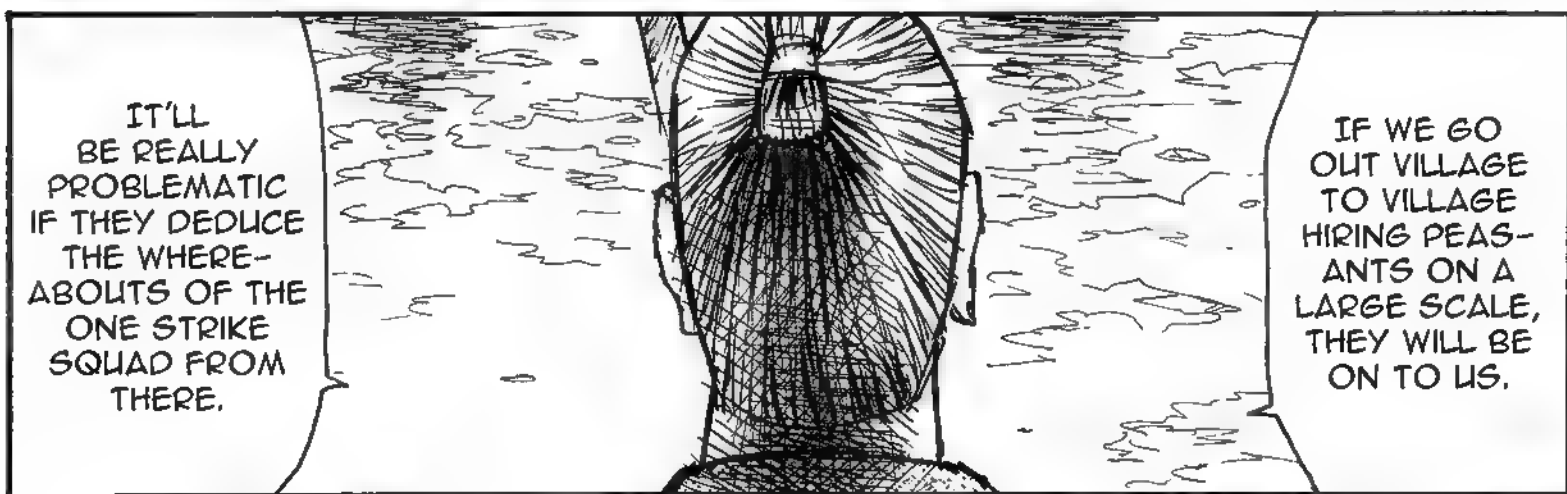
AS I'VE
ALREADY
MENTIONED
A FEW DAYS
AGO, THERE'S
A DIRE NEED
TO REPLENISH
THE SQUAD.





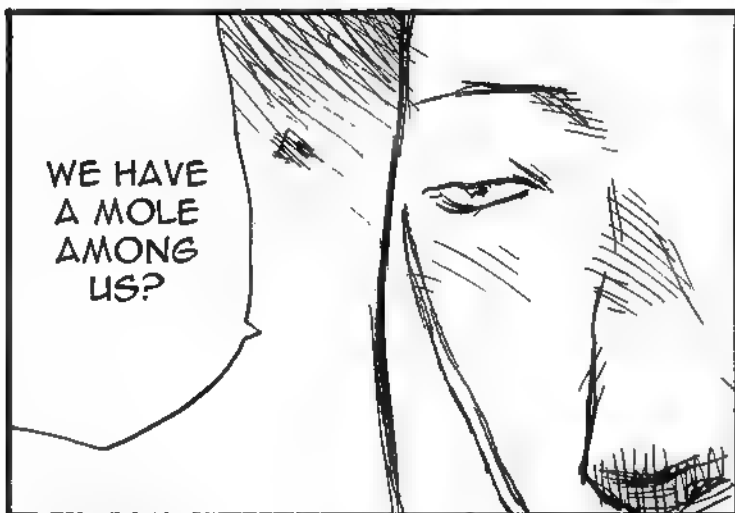
BUT SHIBA'S
SPY ALREADY
KNOWS THAT
WE'VE EM-
PLOYED
PEASANTS.

I'M NOT
SURE IF
YOU'RE
AWARE
OF THIS,



IT'LL
BE REALLY
PROBLEMATIC
IF THEY DEDUCE
THE WHERE-
ABOUTS OF THE
ONE STRIKE
SQUAD FROM
THERE.

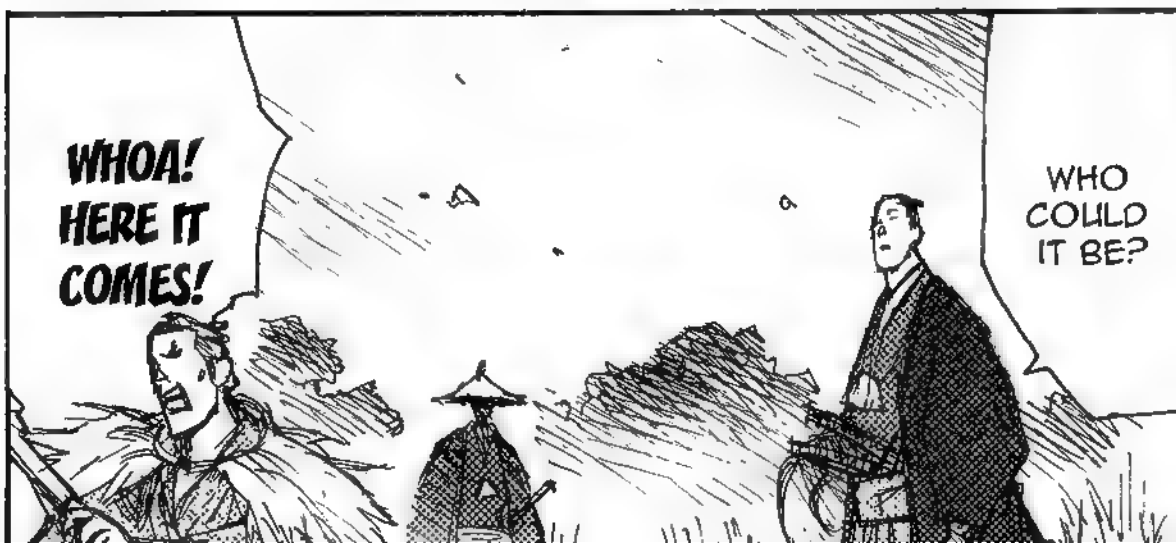
IF WE GO
OUT VILLAGE
TO VILLAGE
HIRING PEAS-
ANTS ON A
LARGE SCALE,
THEY WILL BE
ON TO US.



WE HAVE
A MOLE
AMONG
US?

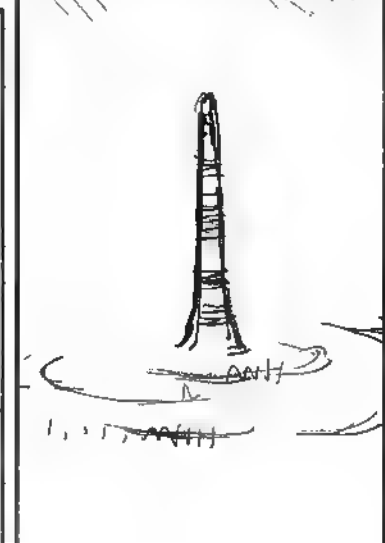


WE
MUST BE
EXTREMELY
DISCREET
NOW.



**WHOA!
HERE IT
COMES!**

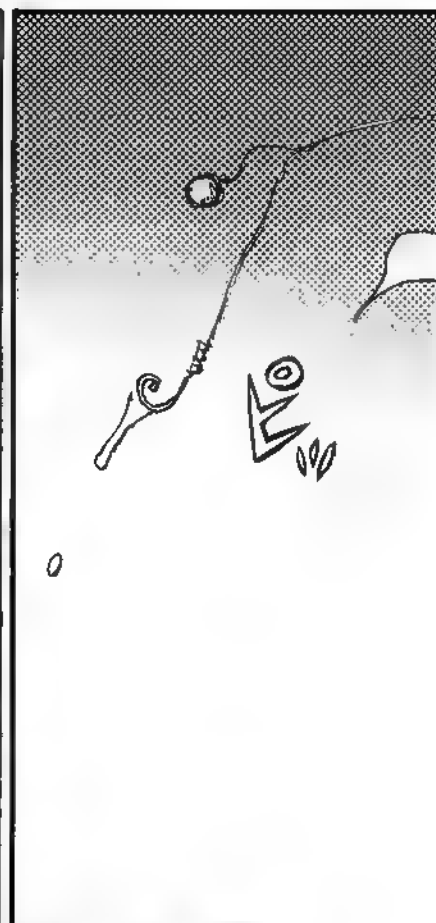
WHO
COULD
IT BE?





THIS
REALLY
ISN'T
GOING
MY
WAY.

SHIT!



SFX:
Plink



THEREFORE
WE WON'T
RECRUIT
ANY NEW
SOLDIERS.

SO,
THAT'S
THE SITU-
ATION.



I'LL
LEAVE IT
UP TO
YOU.

SFX:
Plunk...



FLAP



WE
CAN'T
JUST
TURN A
BLIND EYE
TO THE
GOOD
MEN.

HOWEVER,
WE STILL
NEED TO
GIVE AN
ANSWER
TO THEIR
"LOVE
LETTER."

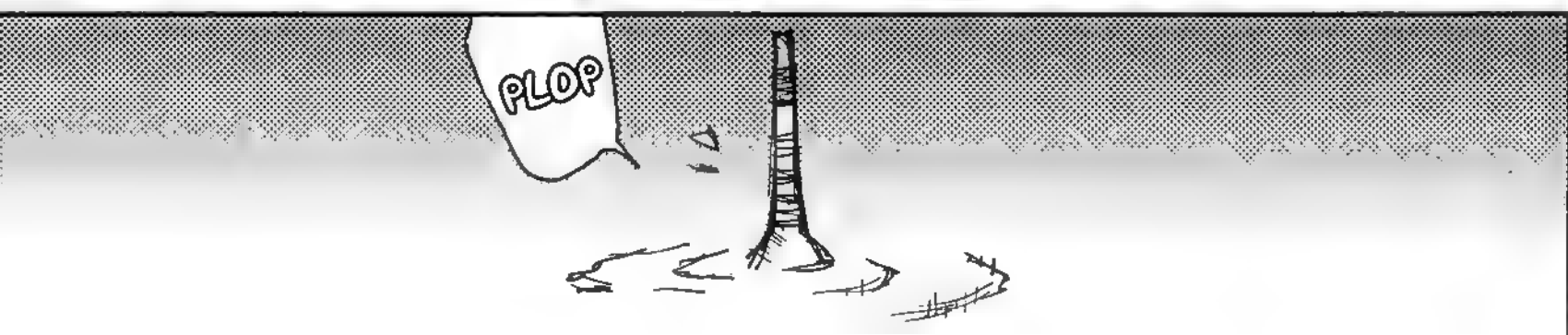


GIVE THEM
THE ANSWER
BEFORE THEY
GET AWAY
WITH IT.

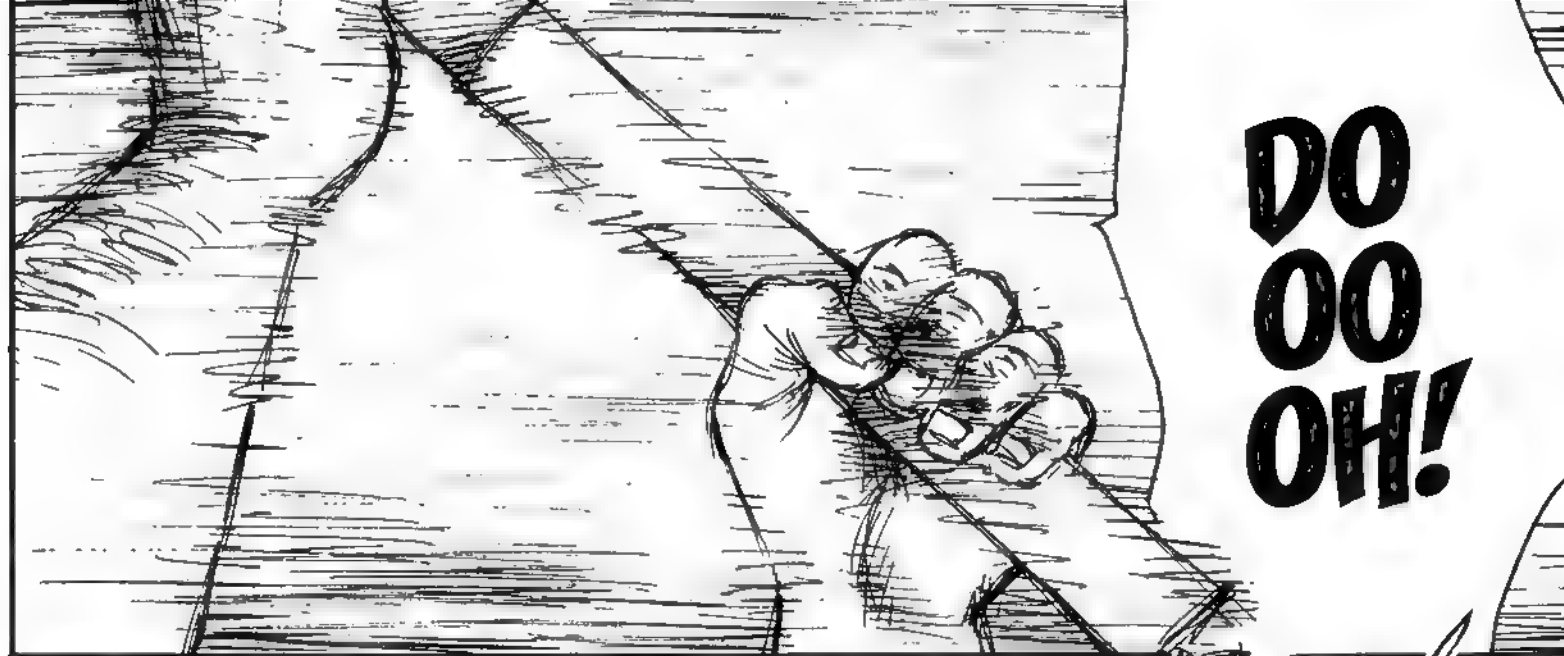
SO,
I DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO CARE-
FULLY
PREPARE.



A GOOD
LOVE LETTER
THAT WILL
SINK DEEP
DOWN INTO
THEIR HEART.



PLOP



SFX:
Whoosh

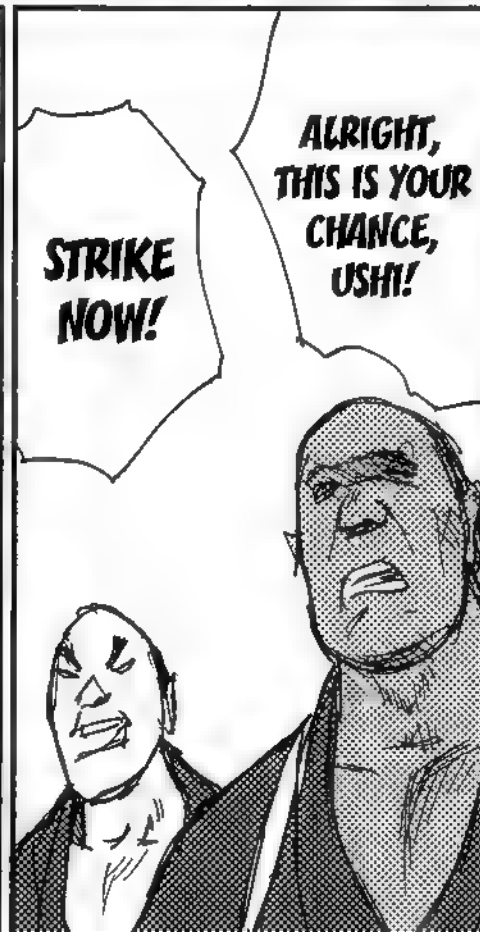
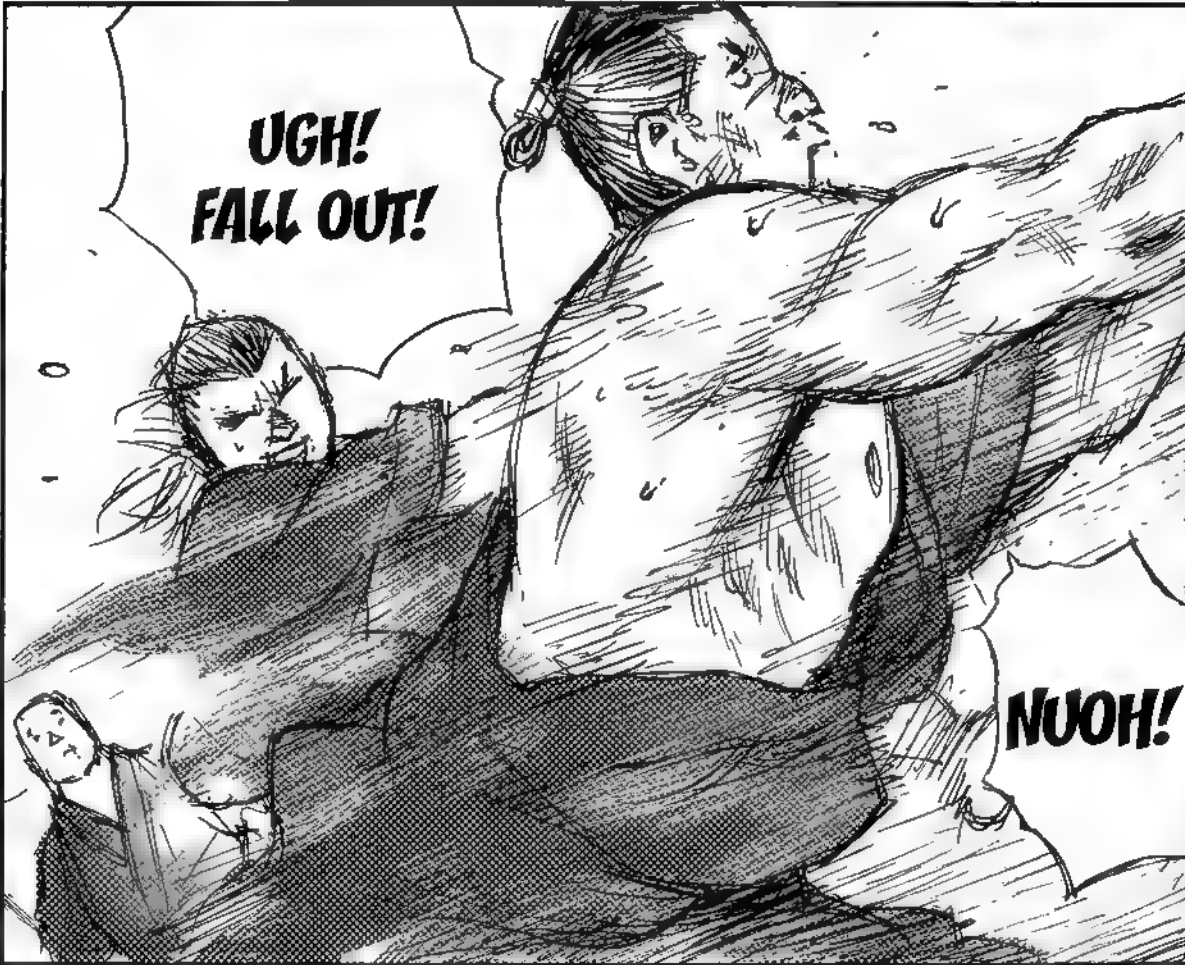


SFX:
Clack
clack
wham!

SFX:
Clack!

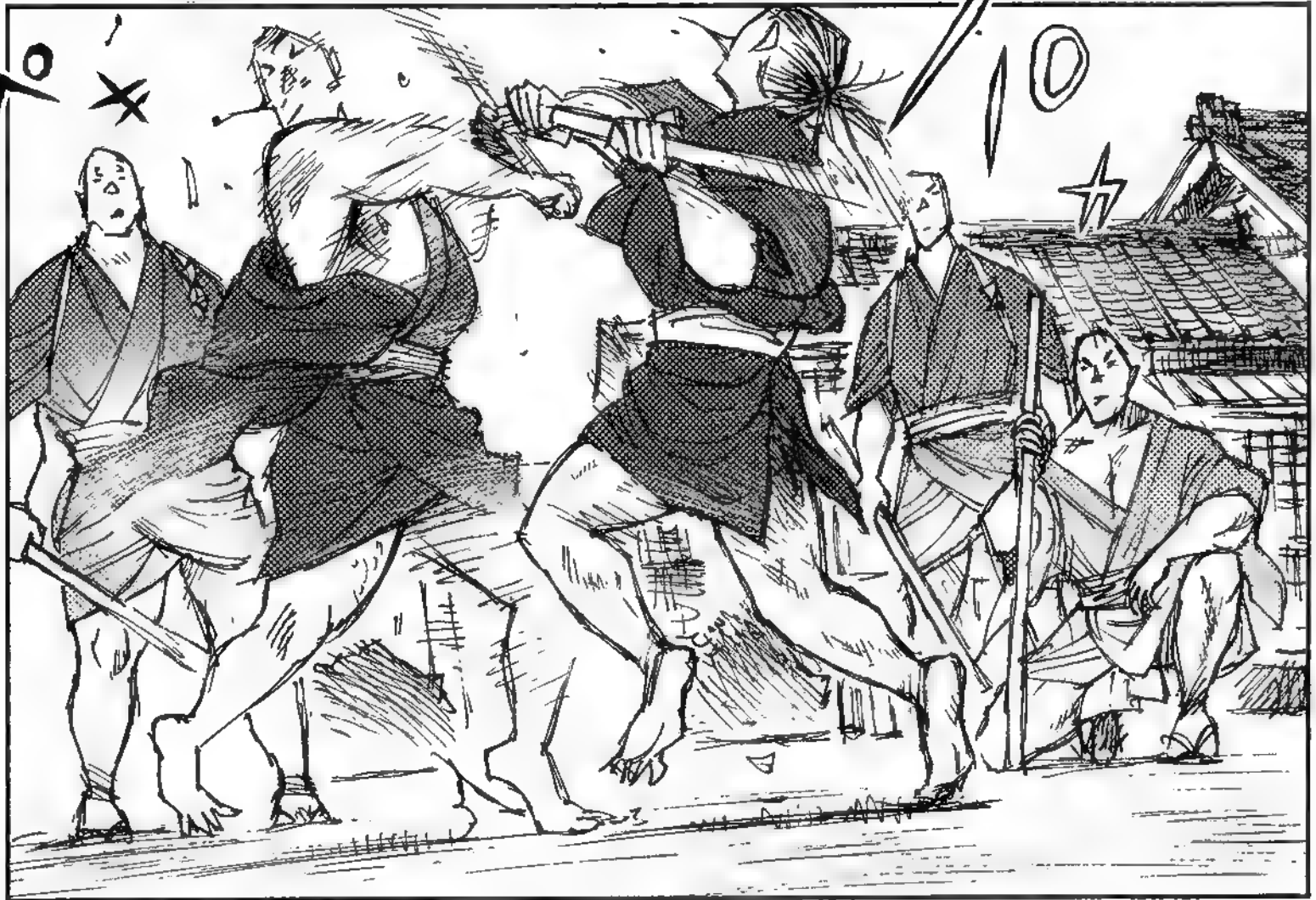


SFX:
Sliding



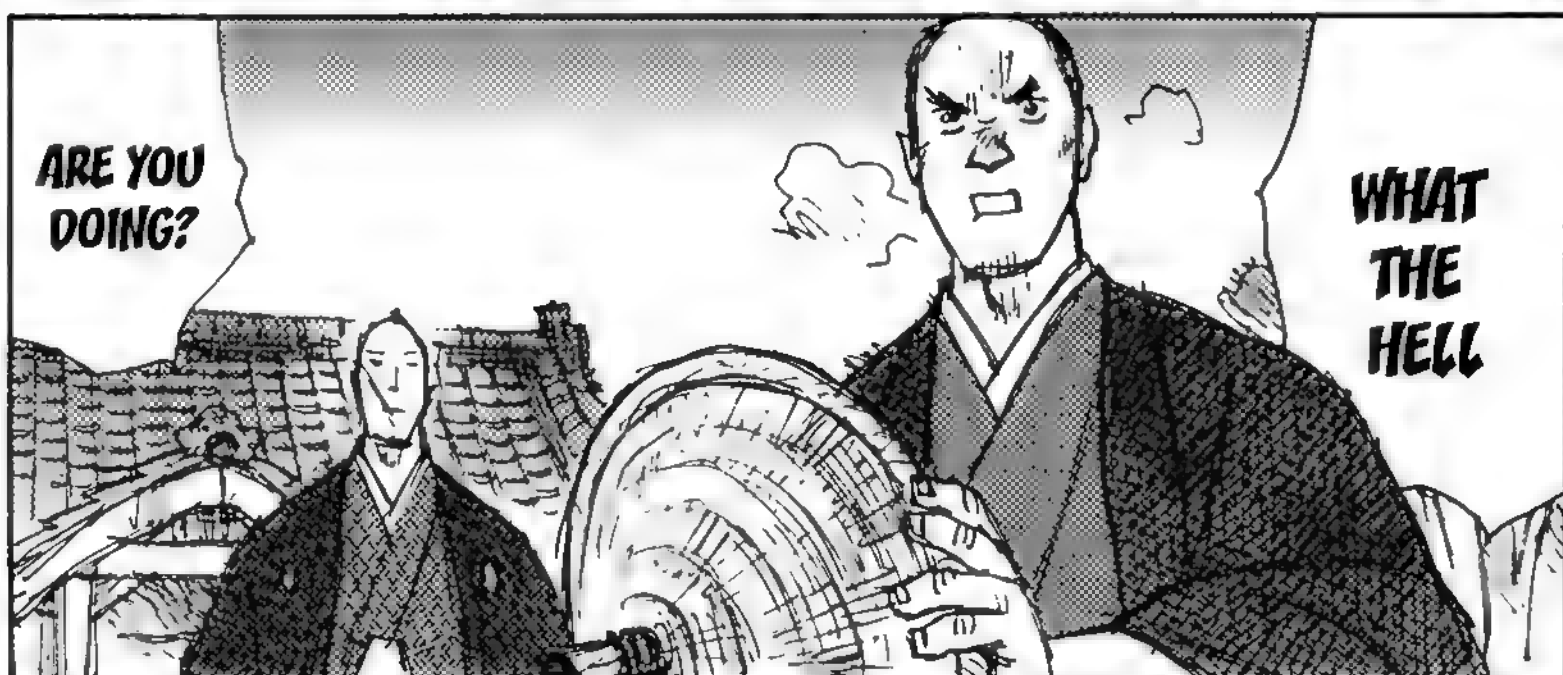


SFX:
Whack!
Snap!

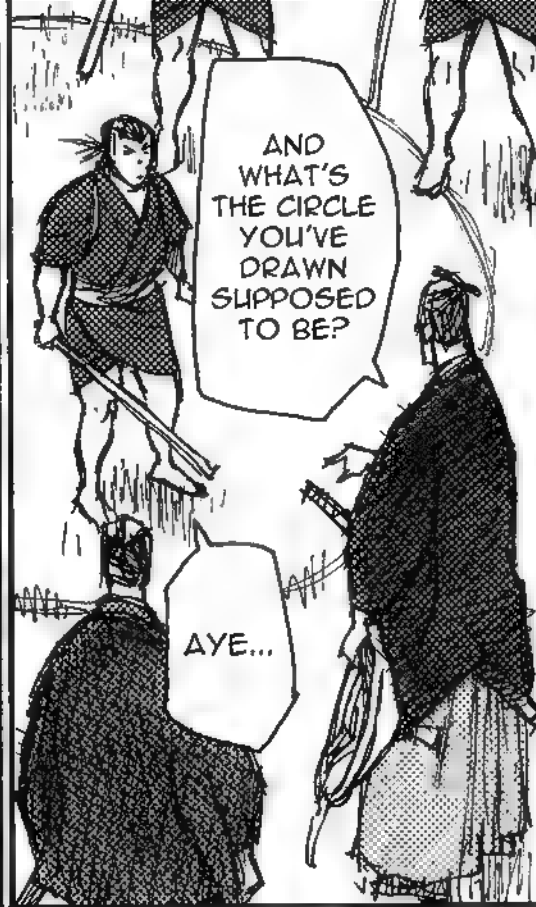


YOU'RE
ALSO
TAKING
TOO LONG
TO CHANGE
YOUR
STANCE

NOT
AGAIN!









DO AS
YOU
WANT.

WHATEVER.

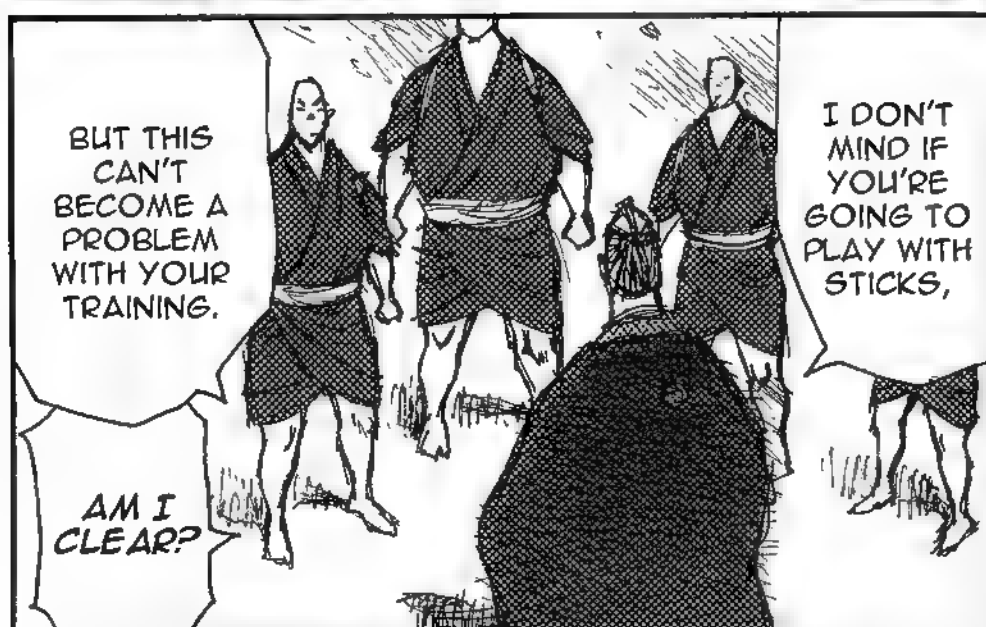


YOU
SURE
THINK
ABOUT
STRANGE
THINGS...



IT'S THEIR
FREE TIME.
THEY DON'T
NEED OUR
PERMISSION
UNLESS THEY
LEAVE THIS
PLACE OR
BUILD A
FIRE.

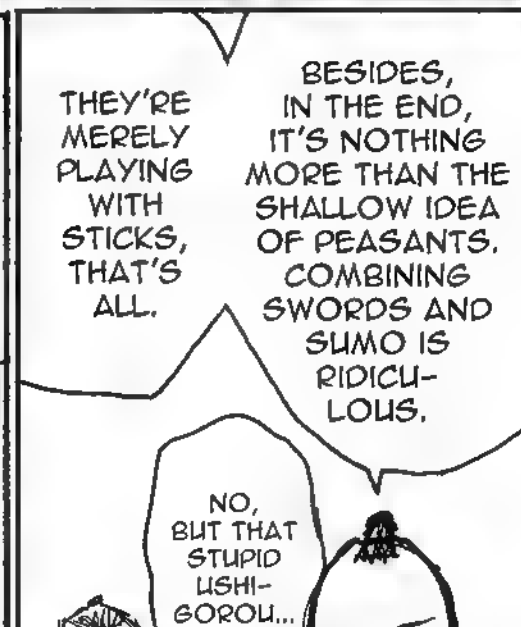
IS IT
ALRIGHT,
SHIMADA-
DONO?



BUT THIS
CAN'T
BECOME A
PROBLEM
WITH YOUR
TRAINING.

I DON'T
MIND IF
YOU'RE
GOING TO
PLAY WITH
STICKS,

AM I
CLEAR?



THEY'RE
MERELY
PLAYING
WITH
STICKS,
THAT'S
ALL.

BESIDES,
IN THE END,
IT'S NOTHING
MORE THAN THE
SHALLOW IDEA
OF PEASANTS.
COMBINING
SWORDS AND
SUMO IS RIDICU-
LOUS.

NO,
BUT THAT
STUPID
USHI-
GOROU...



AYE!

A...



SFX:
Walking



AYE!

DON'T
BE LATE
TO ROLL-
CALL.



STEP



THERE
ARE TOO
MANY UN-
NECESSARY
MOVEMENTS
WHEN YOU'RE
STRIKING
BACK.

ABOUT
YOUR
MOVE-
MENTS
EARLIER.



IS
THERE
SOME-
THING
ELSE?

AYE...



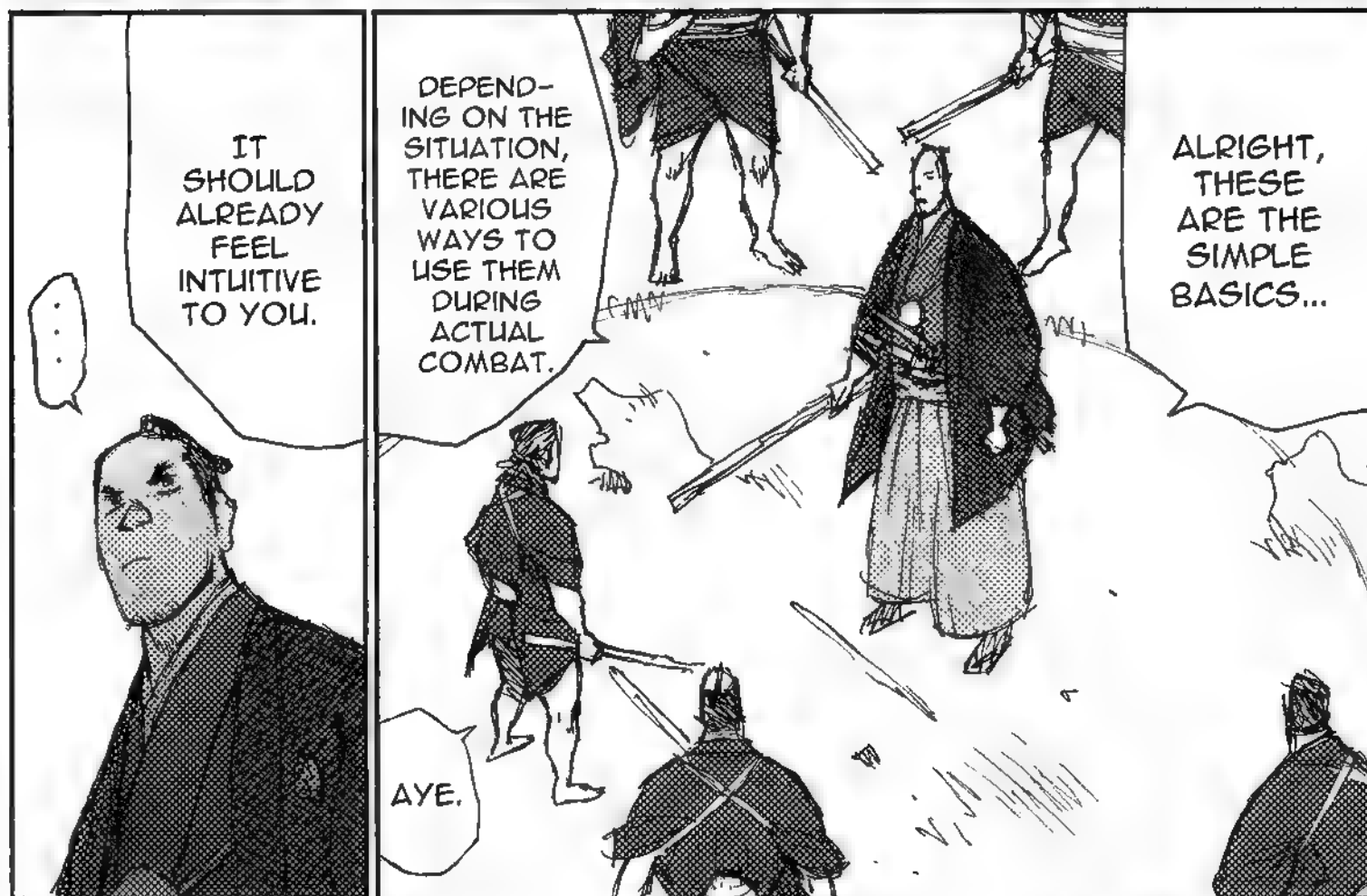
**HEY
USHI-
GOROU.**

SFX:
Flench



I'LL
TEACH
YOU
SOME
TRICKS.

GIVE
ME THAT
STICK.



IT
SHOULD
ALREADY
FEEL
INTUITIVE
TO YOU.

DEPEND-
ING ON THE
SITUATION,
THERE ARE
VARIOUS
WAYS TO
USE THEM
DURING
ACTUAL
COMBAT.

ALRIGHT,
THESE
ARE THE
SIMPLE
BASICS...

AYE.



I WONDER
IF IT'S OKAY
JUST BECAUSE
IT'S THEIR
FREE TIME.

OR
PERHAPS,
SHIMADA-
DONO IS
JUST FOOL-
ING WITH THE
PEASANTS...
I HAVE NO
IDEA.

AYE.

TRY
STABBING
ME, USHI-
GOROU.

I THOUGHT
OUR LORD
ONLY TOLD
US TO TEACH
THEM HOW
TO ATTACK...

SFX:
HMMMM.



PR/N -
"Night
soil" is
human
feces
collected
for ferti-
lizer use



NIGHT
SOIL?!

WHA
...?

NIGHT
SOIL.



WHAT
BUSI-
NESS?



AND
WE'RE
GOING TO
START
A BUSI-
NESS.

EHP?

HEHE!
WE'RE PUT-
TING ASIDE
THE MONEY
WE EARN
HERE



WHY
ARE YOU
GETTING
ANGRY?

WHY THE
HELL WOULD
A SAMURAI
SCOOP UP
SHIT?!

ARE
YOU GUYS
STUPID OR
WHAT?!



WE HAVE
SEVERAL
YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE
WHEN IT
COMES TO
THAT.
AS
LONG
AS WE
HAVE THE
CAPITAL,
IT'LL WORK
OUT JUST
FINE.



WE'RE
SAMURAI!
GET YOUR
SHIT TO-
GETHER!

WORKING
WITH NIGHT
SOIL IS WHAT
PEASANTS
DO!



BESIDES,
EVEN AFTER
BECOMING
A SAMURAI,
MAKING
MONEY BY
OTHER
MEANS IS
USEFUL

WHAT?!



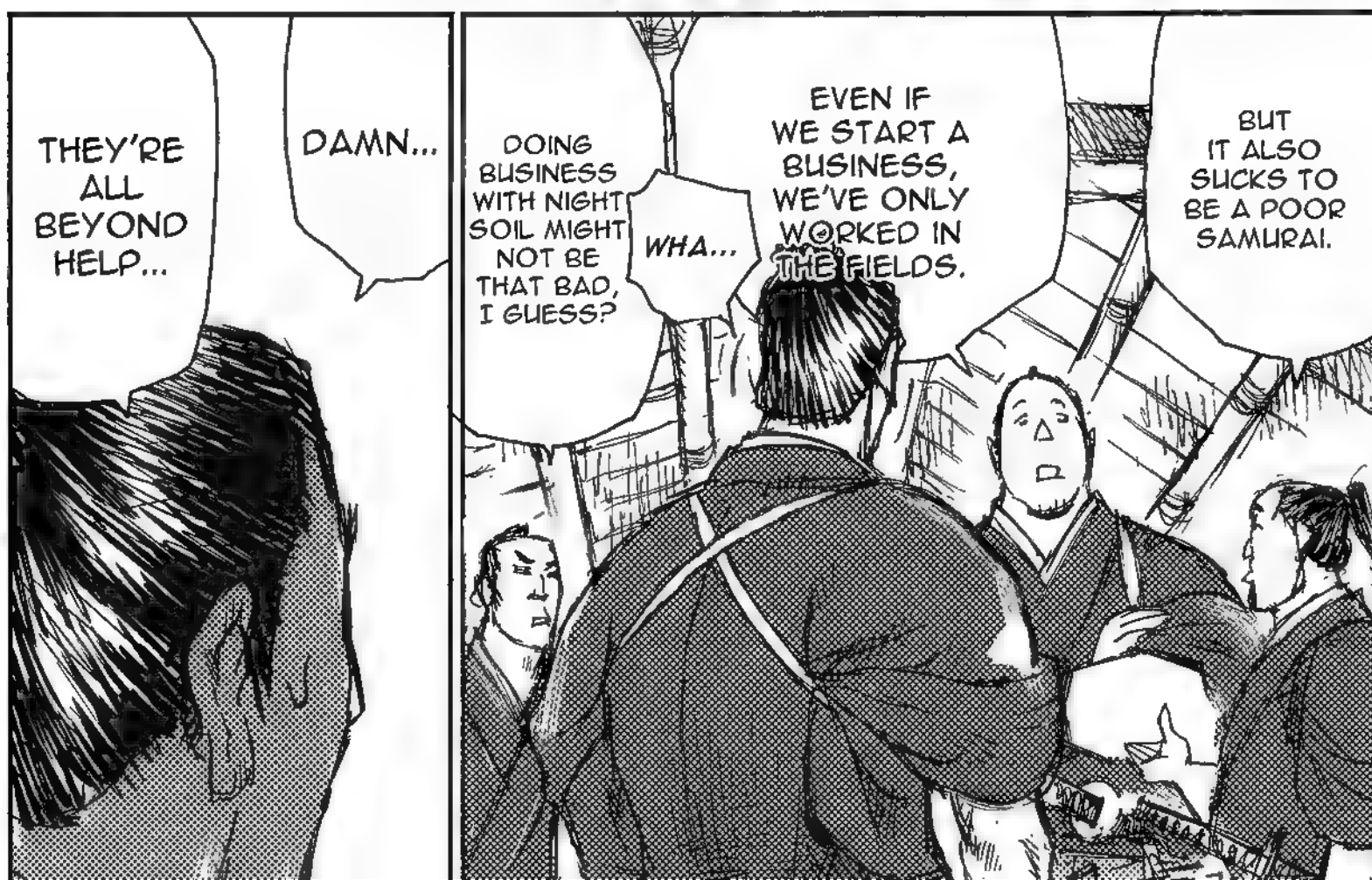
WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING
MAKES NO
SENSE AT
ALL.

HEY ICHI,
WHY AREN'T
SAMURAI
ALLOWED
TO DO BUSI-
NESS WITH
NIGHT
SOIL?



IF YOU'RE GOING
TO ACT LIKE A
PEASANT, CUT UP
YOUR STOMACH
AND WAIT FOR
YOUR DEATH!

**YOU RETARD!
A WARRIOR'S
PRIDE COMES
BEFORE HIS
WELL-BEING!**



THEY'RE
ALL
BEYOND
HELP...

DAMN...

DOING
BUSINESS
WITH NIGHT
SOIL MIGHT
NOT BE
THAT BAD,
I GUESS?

WHA...

EVEN IF
WE START A
BUSINESS,
WE'VE ONLY
WORKED IN
THE FIELDS.

BUT
IT ALSO
SUCKS TO
BE A POOR
SAMURAI.



**PLEASE,
WAIT!**

WAIT!



**I HAVE A
SICK WIFE AND
THREE LITTLE
CHILDREN...
AND...
A DOG...**

**I DIDN'T
SUPPORT
SATSUMA
BECAUSE I
WANTED
TO!**



**SFX:
Wha-
blam!**



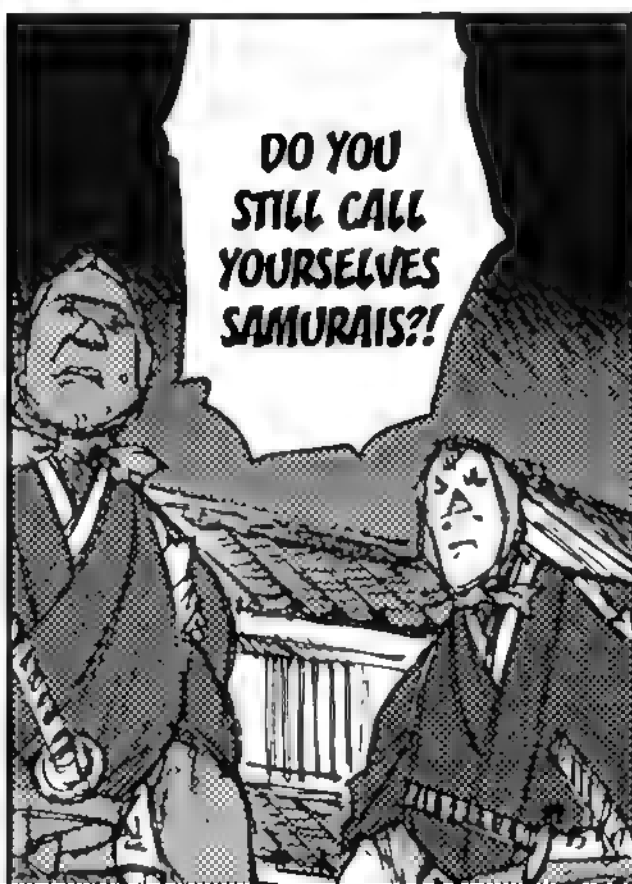
SFX:
Falling



SFX:
Clack



SFX:
Swish,
whish



SFX:
Gasping



B-BUT HE...

LEAVE IT UP TO ME.



WAIT, ICHI!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE AREN'T SAMURAIS?!



WHAT DID YOU SAY...

WHA...

SFX:
Fwippi!



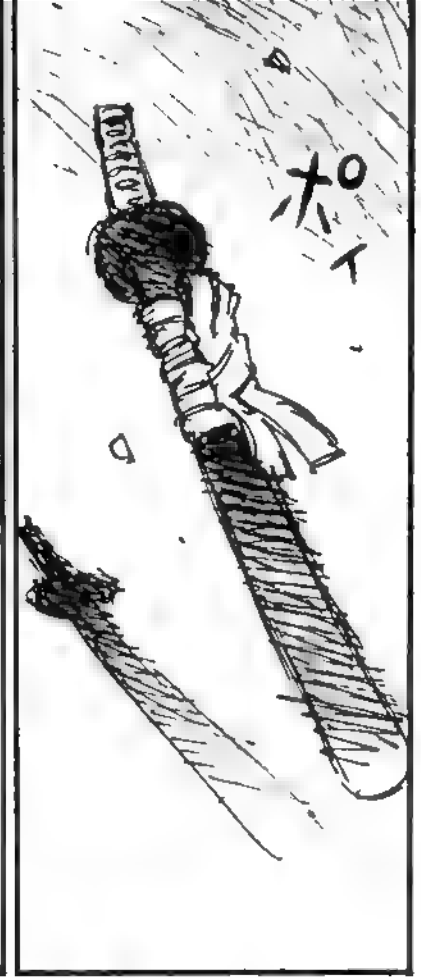
WHAT...

SFX:
Neck
cracking



WE'LL
LET YOU
GO IF
YOU CAN
DEFEAT
ME.

I'LL
FIGHT
YOU BARE-
HANDED.
YOU GOT
NO COM-
PLAINTS
NOW, DO
YOU?



SFX:
Toss



JUST
WAIT
AND
SEE.

EVEN IF
IT'S YOU
SHIM, FIGHT-
ING THEM
WITHOUT A
WEAPON
IS...

H-HEY...
DON'T BE
RECK-
LESS.



UH...

COME
AT ME!



SFX:
Wham!



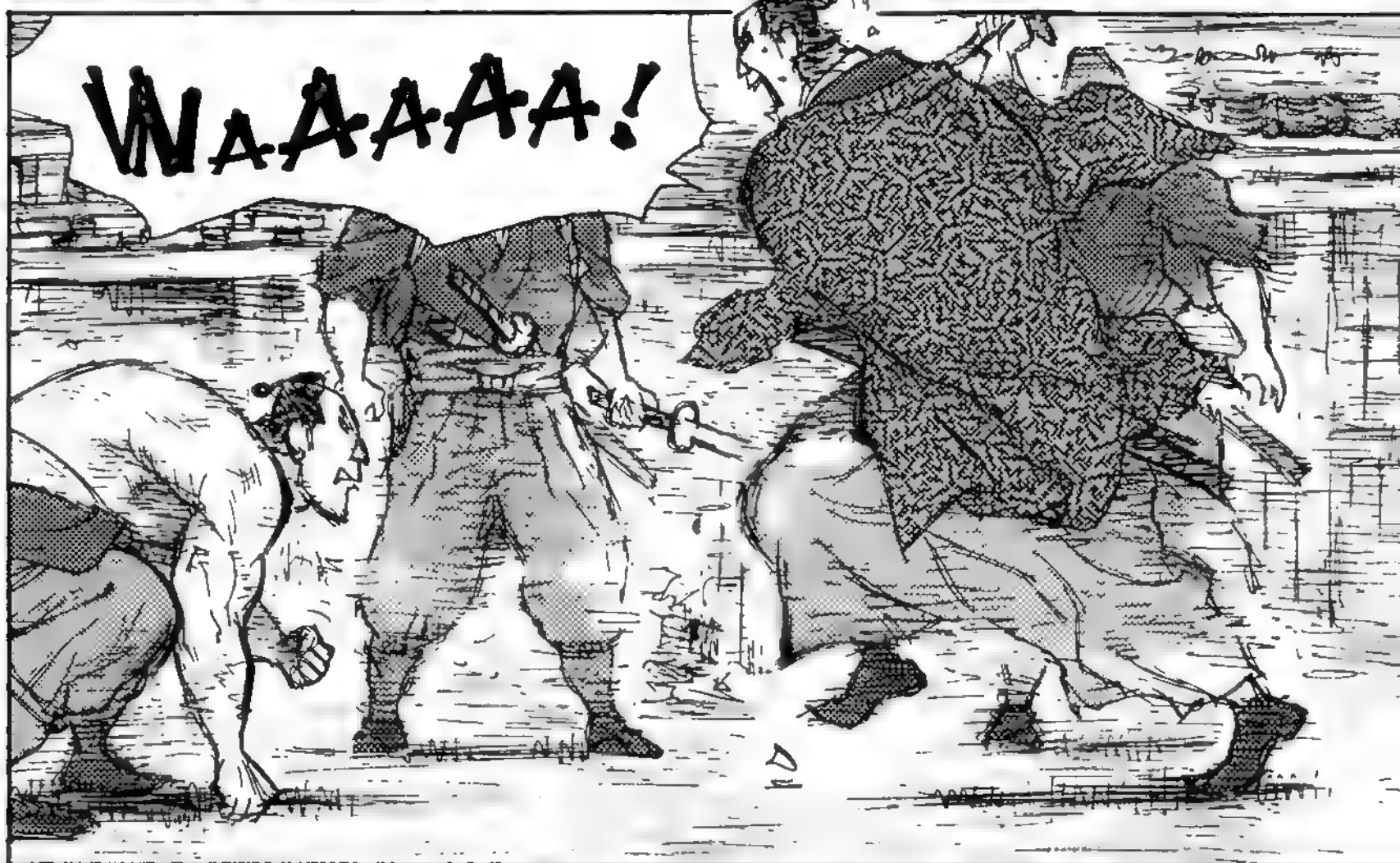
GUH.

NU...

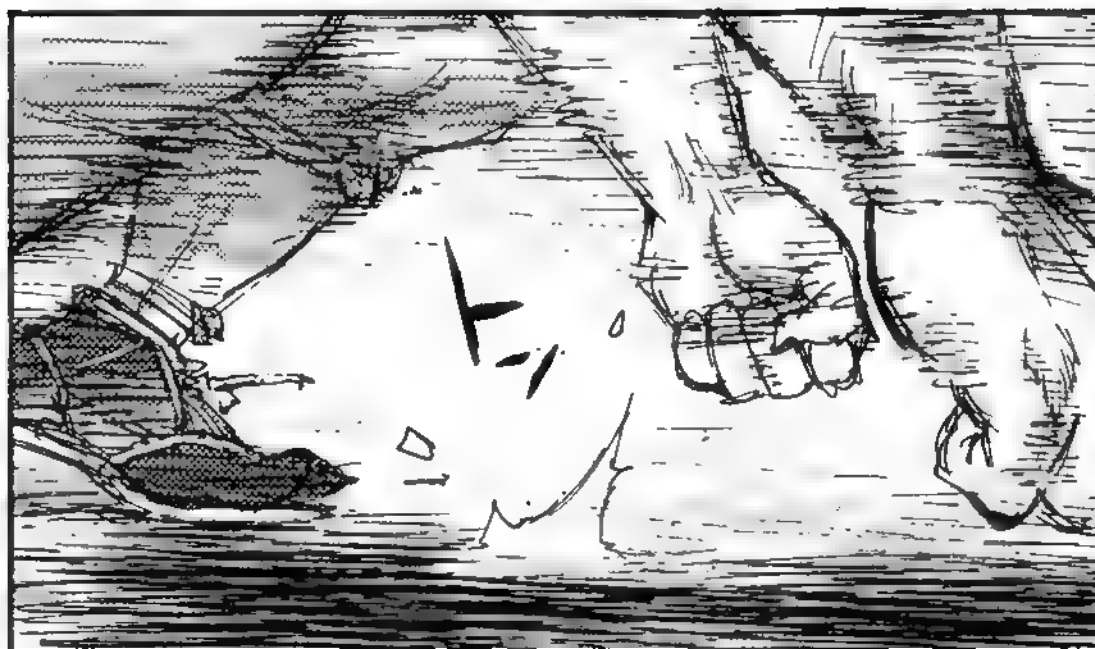


IS
EASY TO
DODGE.

SOMEONE
WHO MOVES
AS SLOW
AS YOU



WAAAAA!



SFX:
Thump





SFX:
Dodge,
whoosh!



SFX:
Grab



SFX:
Swoosh!



W
AA
AA
H!

DO
RY
AA
AA!



SFX
Wham!
Snap!



GUH!
GEH!



GUH...

UUUH...



W-WOW.
THAT'S
THE GRAND
CHAMPION OF
THE VILLAGE
FOR YOU!

HOW
ABOUT
THAT?



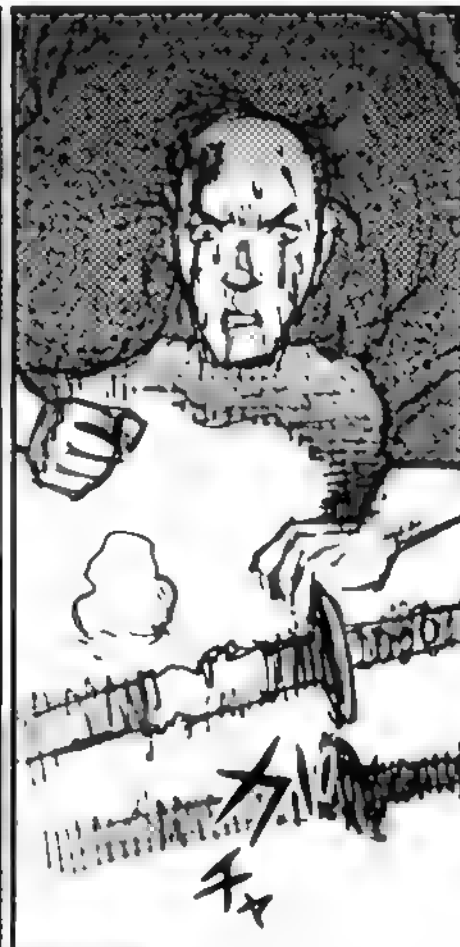
HOW
PATHETIC
...

WHAT?
ARE YOU
GOING
TO CRY?



GET YOUR
SHIT TO-
GETHER!

AND YOU
STILL CALL
YOURSELF A
SAMURAI?



CHAPTER 10 LOWER THAN A DOG





NOW, CUT
OPEN YOUR
STOMACH
LIKE A REAL
SAMURAI.

THIS IS THE
MERCY OF A
SAMURAI.



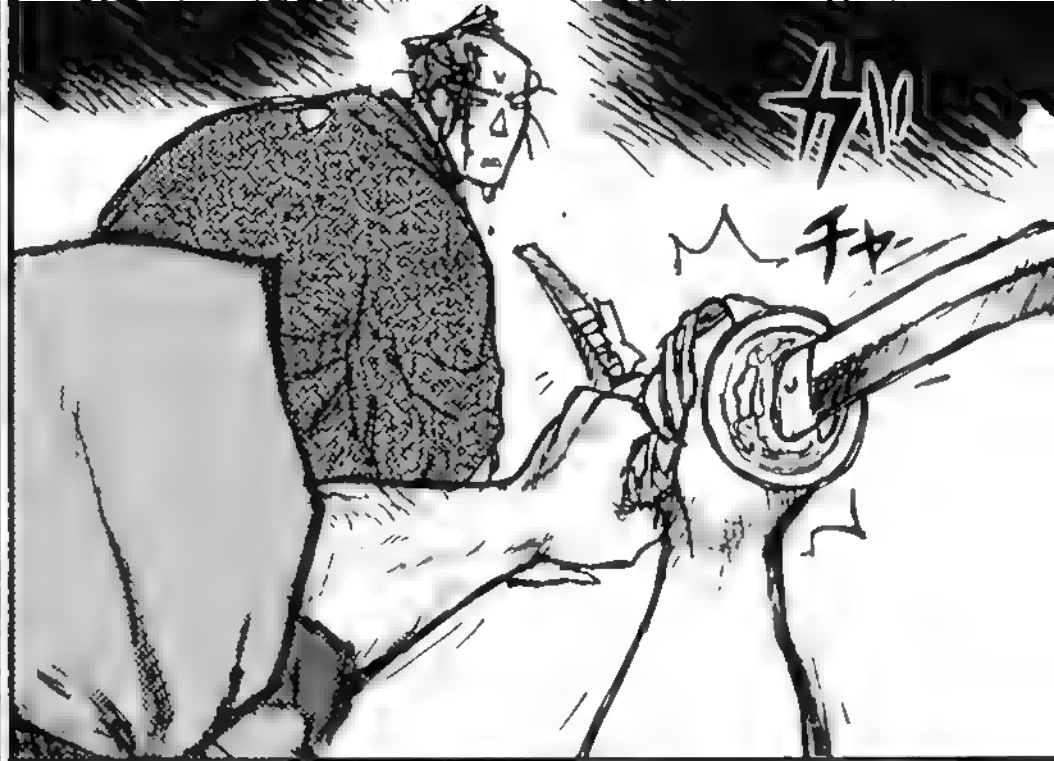
YOU
COWARD!

GET ON
WITH IT.
IT'S YOUR
LAST
MOMENTS,



**DON'T
WORRY.**

**I'LL
DELIVER
THE COUP
DE GRACE.**



**I'LL HIT YOU
IF YOU DO
ANYTHING.**

**DON'T
BUTT IN,
WASA.**

**STOP IT,
ICHI.**



**W-WHAT
ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO DO?

YOU'RE
ACTING
WEIRD.**



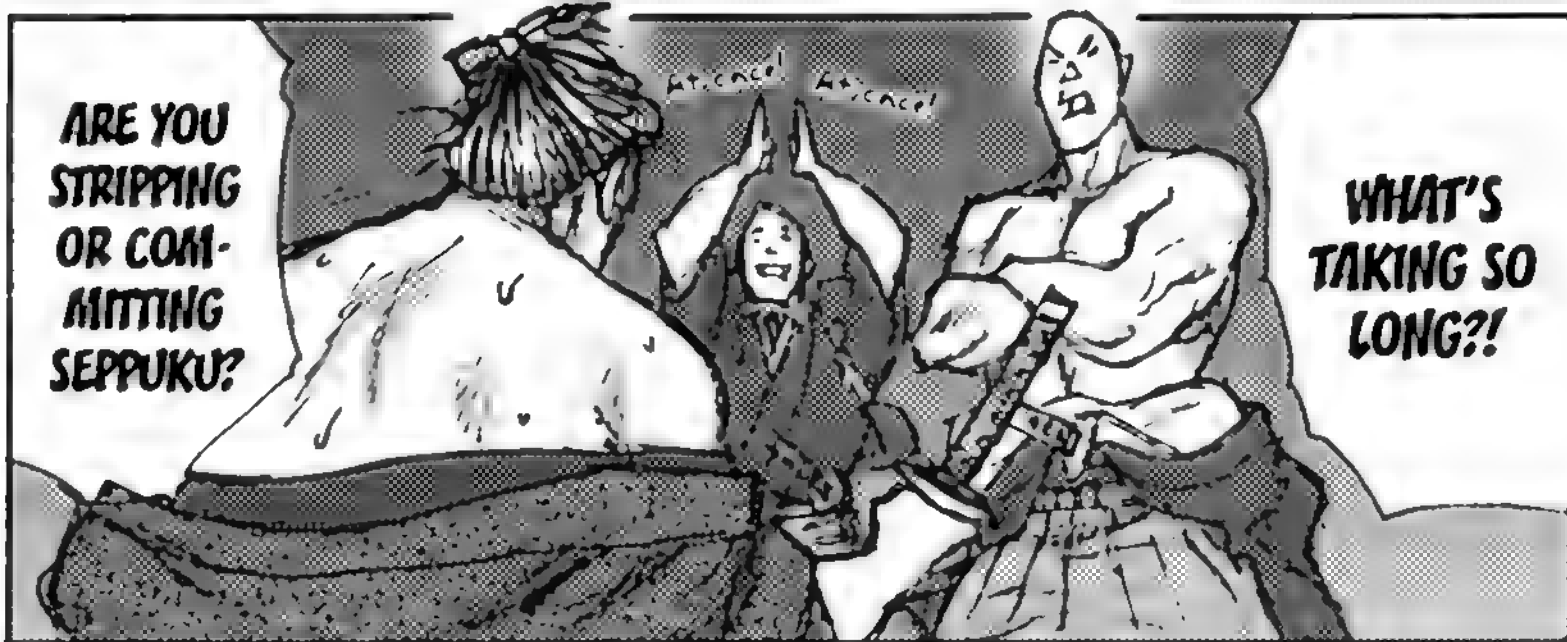
**OKAY, BOSS.
NO NEED TO
HOLD BACK
NOW.**

**SLICE
OPEN YOUR
STOMACH IN
ONE GO.**



**THIS IS
GREAT
ENTER-
TAIN-
MENT!
HAHA
HA.**

**IT'S NOT
EVERY DAY
YOU SEE A
SEPPLUKU.**





WA
AA
AA
AH!



DO IT!



SFX:
Thwack!





SFX:
Nose
picking





W-
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

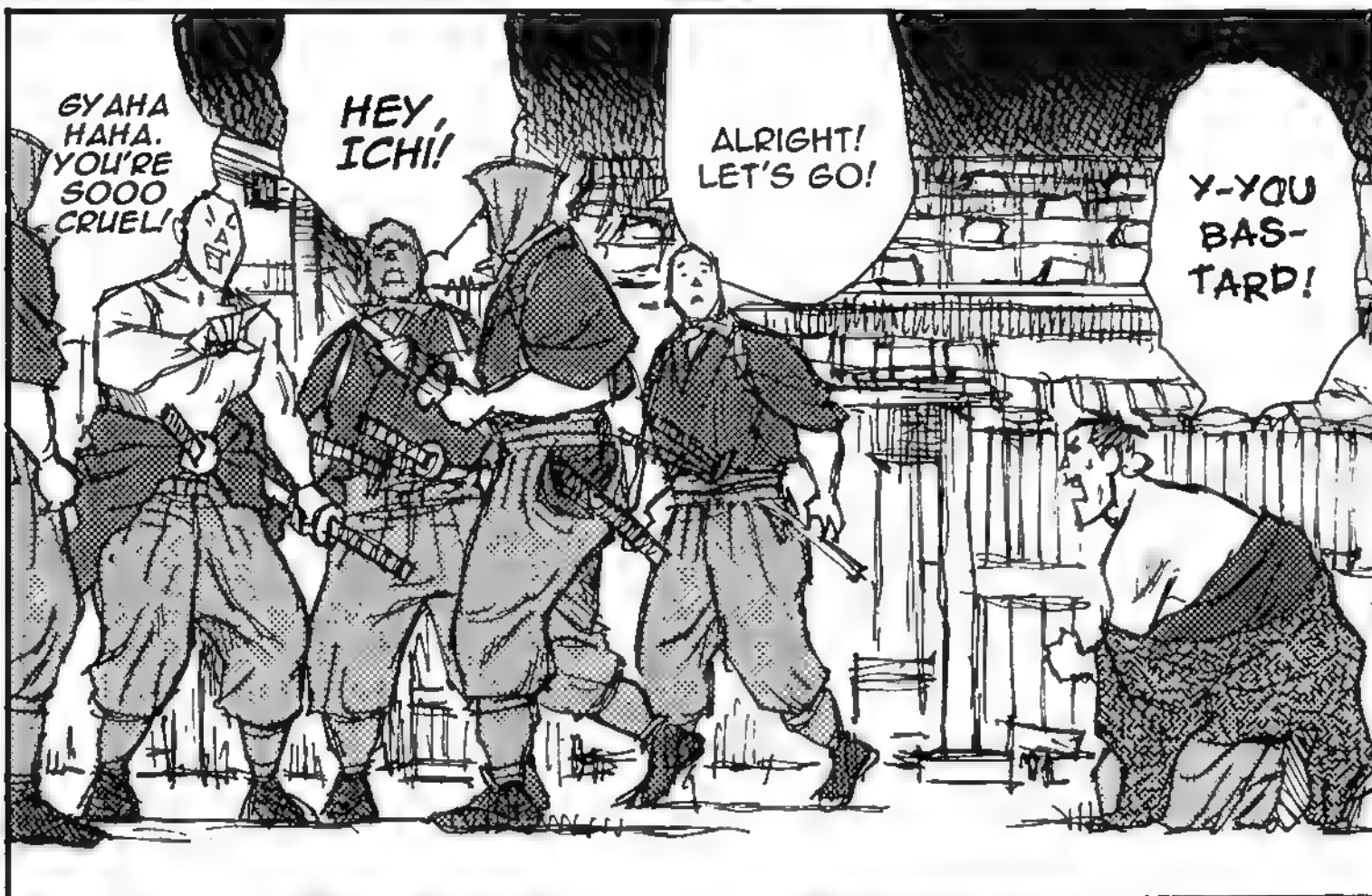


DID
YOU
SAY
SOME-
THING?



SEE
YA!
♡

I THINK,
I'LL PASS
ON THE
COUP DE
GRACE.



GYAHA
HAHA.
YOU'RE
SOOO
CRUEL!

HEY,
ICHI!

ALRIGHT!
LET'S GO!

Y-YOU
BAS-
TARD!



WHO
CARES?
LET'S
GO.

ISN'T
THAT TOO
CRUEL?

ARE YOU...
REALLY
PLANNING
TO LEAVE
THAT
SAMURAI
LIKE
THAT?

SFX:
Blood
pouring



YEAH!

DON'T
FUCK
WITH THE
ONE
STRIKE,
ONE KILL
SQUAD!

WELL,
HE SAYS
THAT WE
WERENT
SAMU-
RAIS.



SFX:
Gasping

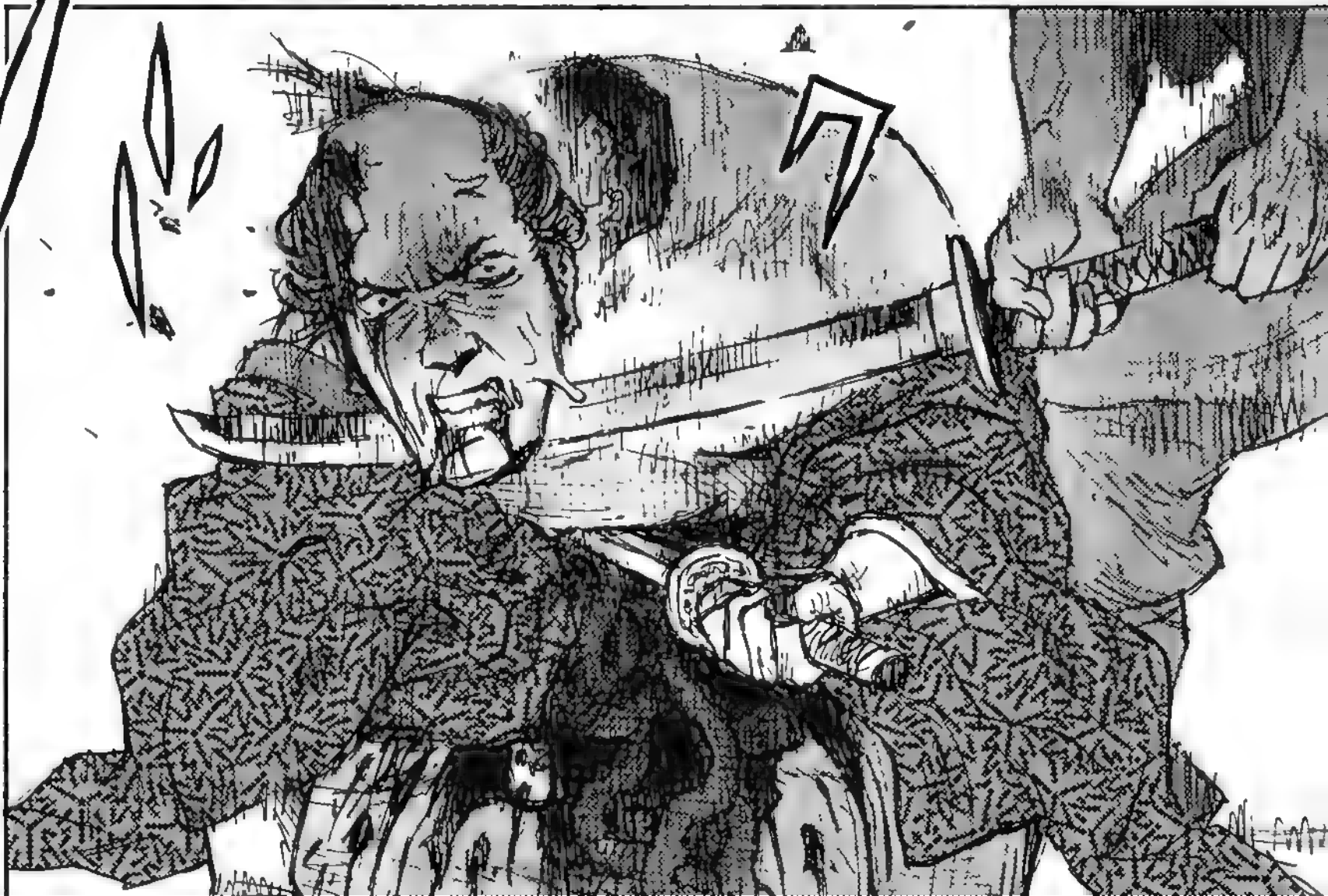
DO YOU
STILL
CONSIDER
YOUR-
SELVES...
HUMAN?!

YOU
BAS-
TARDS!

D-DAMN YOU!
I WILL HAUNT
YOU! I WILL
HAUNT YOU!



SFX:
Bam!





SFX:
Head
rolling



SFX:
Fwapp



STOP
WASTING
TIME ON
STUPID
THINGS!

ICHI, YOU
BASTARD.



USHI.

OH,
IT'S
JUST



YEAH!

B-BUT...
BECAUSE
OF THESE
LYING BAS-
TARDS I
LOST MY
FINGERS.



STOP
FOOLING
AROUND,
YOU
IDIOT!

I CAME TO
CHECK ON
YOU SINCE
YOU WERE
TAKING SO
LONG.



THERE'S
NO HARM
IN DOING
ALL THIS.

HE'S THE
SAMURAI
THAT TOR-
MENTED
YOU GUYS.



WHY ARE
YOU TAKING
IT OUT ON
HIM? HE
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

HE DIDN'T
DO THAT
TO US.

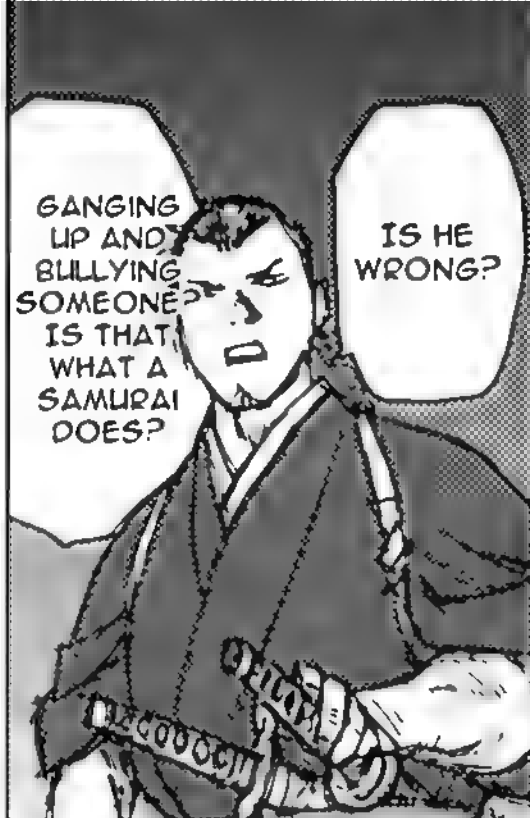
U...

UGH...



HUH?

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



GANGING
UP AND
BULLYING
SOMEONE
IS THAT
WHAT A
SAMURAI
DOES?

IS HE
WRONG?



BUT HE
WAS SO
CONDE-
SCENDING
WHEN HE
TOLD US
WE WERENT
SAMURAI!

SO
WHAT?



YOU HAVE
LOST YOUR
MORALS.
A MAN
WITHOUT
MORALS
IS LOWER
THAN A
DOG!

USHI IS
RIGHT, ICHI.
WE SHOULDN'T
BE DOING
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.



AM I
WRONG?



LET'S
GO.

WHAT-
EVER.



THAT'S
RIGHT, WE
SHOULDN'T
BE DOING
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

WHA....?

Y-YOU
KNOW, I
DIDN'T THINK
THIS WAS
ALRIGHT,
EITHER. I
WAS UNDER
ICHI'S IN-
FLUENCE...

HOLD
ON! YOU
GUYS...



YEAH...

ESPECIALLY
SINCE WE
KILL PEOPLE,
WE MUST NOT
FORGET OUR
DIGNITY AS
HUMANS.

WHEN WE
GET BACK, WE
SHOULD LIGHT
AN INCENSE
STICK FOR THE
DECEASED
SAMURAI.

SFX:
Crowding
around



AS ALWAYS,
USHIGOROH
IS BEING REA-
SONABLE.



ARE YOU IN A
POSITION TO BE
BOASTING ABOUT
YOUR VIRTUES?

USHI! WHICH
ONE OF US IS
LOWER THAN
A DOG?



**W-WHAT
YOU ARE
DOING WITH
YOUR SISTER
CHIYO.**

**I KNOW
VERY WELL
USHI**



**CUT IT
OUT,
ICHI.**

**H-
HEY...**



WHA....?

WHAT?



**WHAT YOU'RE
DOING IS SOME-
THING A MAN
SHOULDN'T DO!**

**LISTEN USHI,
THERE'S A LINE
THAT PEOPLE
CANNOT
CROSS.**



**SHUT THE
FUCK UP,
FAT ASS!**



**ONLY SCUM
THAT'S LOWER
THAN A DOG
WOULD DO
THAT!**

**ARE YOU
SERIOUS?**

SISTER?

**OF ALL THINGS,
YOU'RE BEDDING
YOUR OWN
SISTER!**

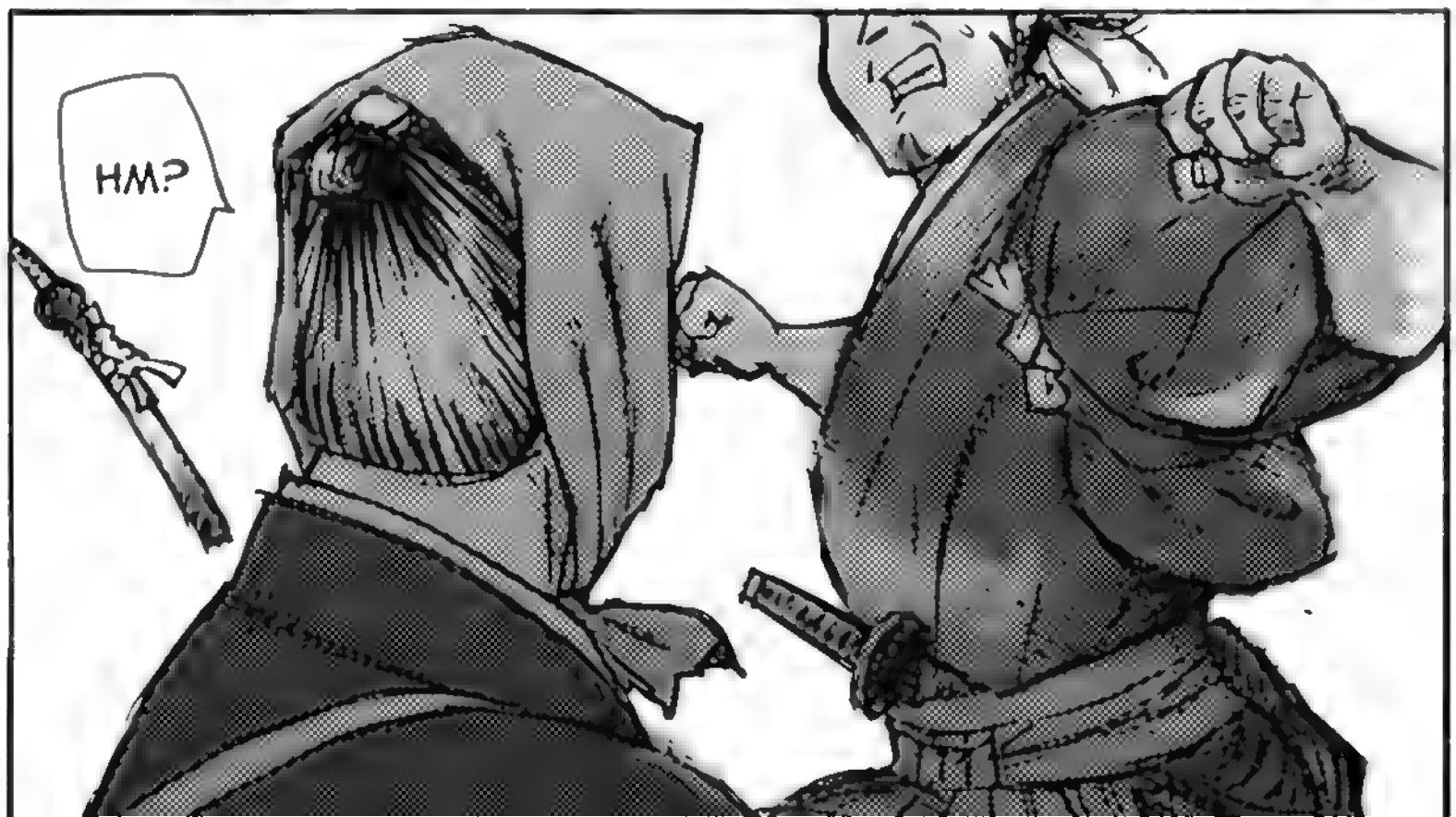


**DESPITE
ANYONE
SAYING IT
OUT LOUD,
EVERYONE IN
THE VILLAGE
KNOWS IT.**

**IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
AT THIS
POINT.**



**CUT IT OUT
ALREADY,
ICHI!**



HM?

SFX:
Ka-pow!



SFX:
Smack
thud!







WE'LL
TAKE
USHI
THIS
WAY.

YOU GUYS
TAKE ICHI
HOME
THROUGH
THE
OTHER
WAY.

O-
OKAY.



BRO,
CALM
DOWN.

WE
SHOULDN'T
BE SCUF-
FLING
RIGHT
NOW.



CLATTER



DON'T
TOUCH
ME!

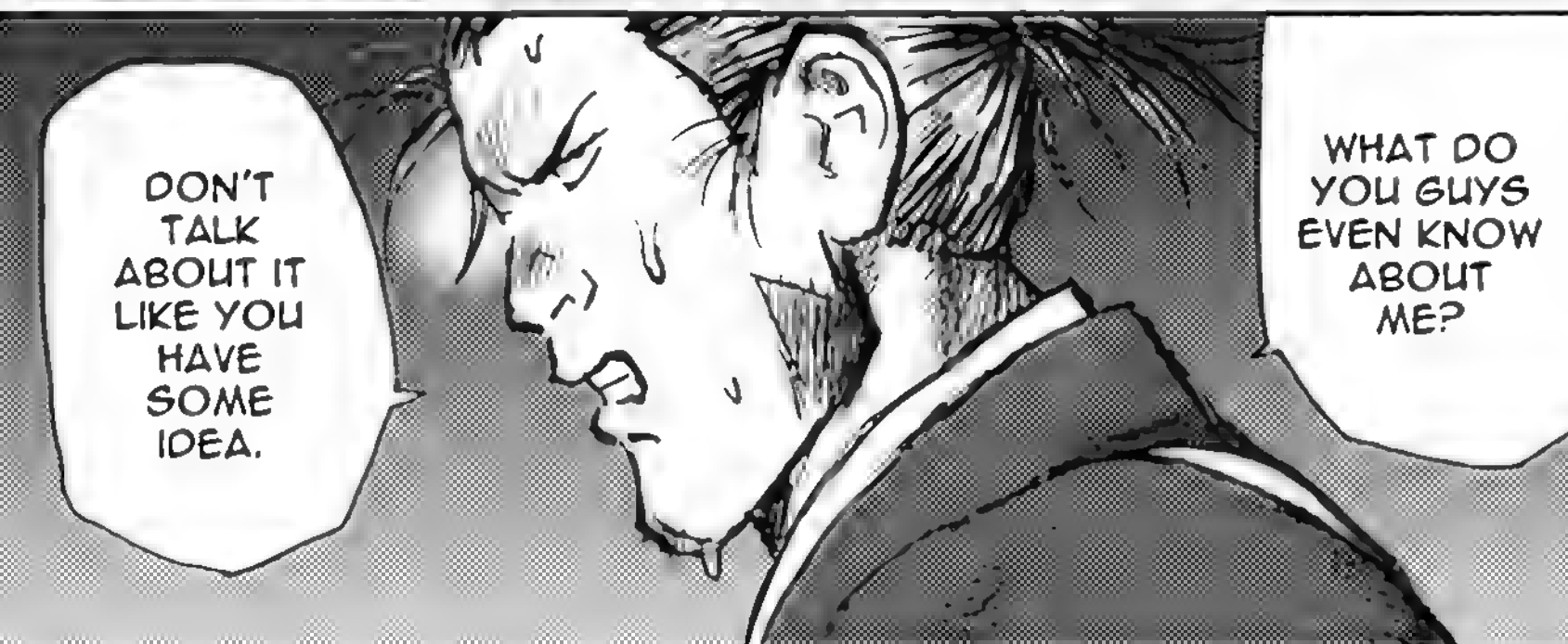
LET ME
GO!

BRO...



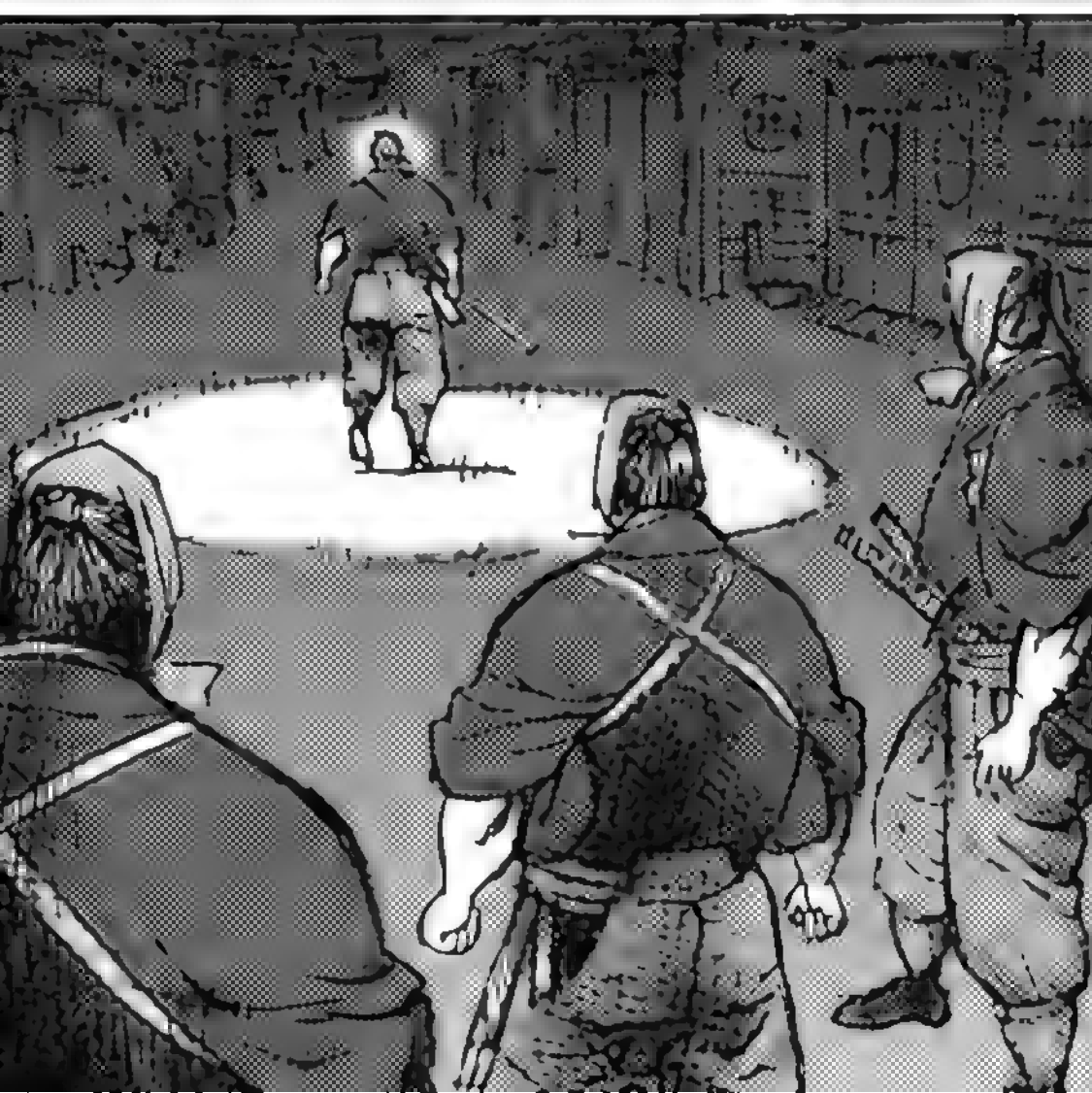
EVERY-
ONE HAS
A SECRET
THEY
CAN'T
TALK
ABOUT.

D-DON'T
LET IT
BOTHER
YOU,
USHI.



DON'T
TALK
ABOUT IT
LIKE YOU
HAVE
SOME
IDEA.

WHAT DO
YOU GUYS
EVEN KNOW
ABOUT
ME?



USHI...



SFX:
Birds
chirping



SFX:
Clack!



SFX:
Wham,
plink!



DAMN YONE-KICHI... HE FOUND HIMSELF A GOOD STYLE.

HE'S HAVING TROUBLE FIGHTING AN OPPONENT TALLER THAN HIM.



HIIII!

DORYAA!

SFX:
Smack!



NO WONDER, CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND TODAY.

SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO USHI-GOROU?



ANYWAY LET'S GET BACK TO THE TRAINING.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IT'S MY FAULT!



THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.

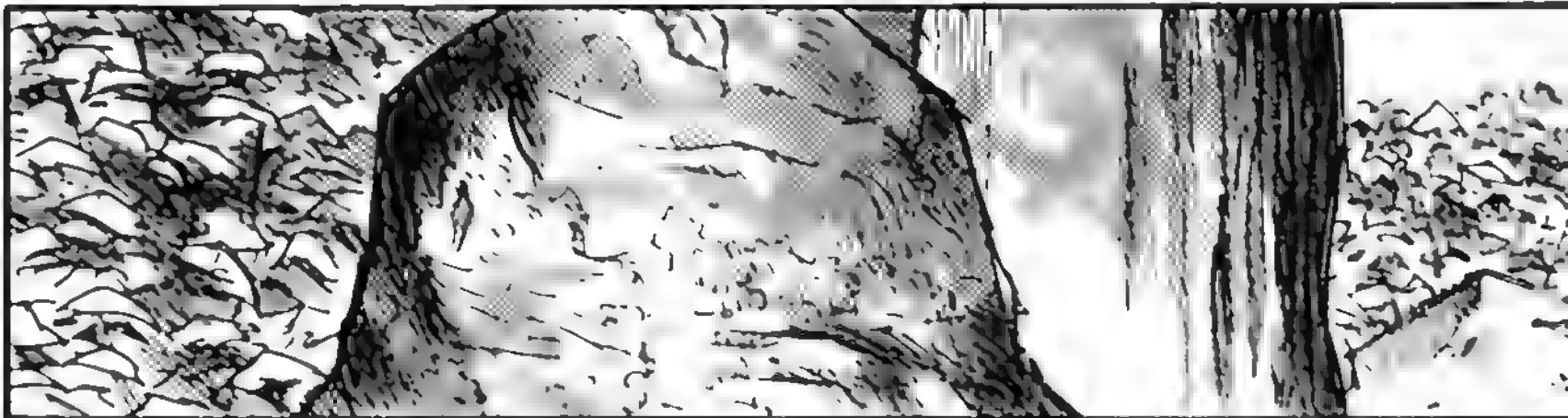
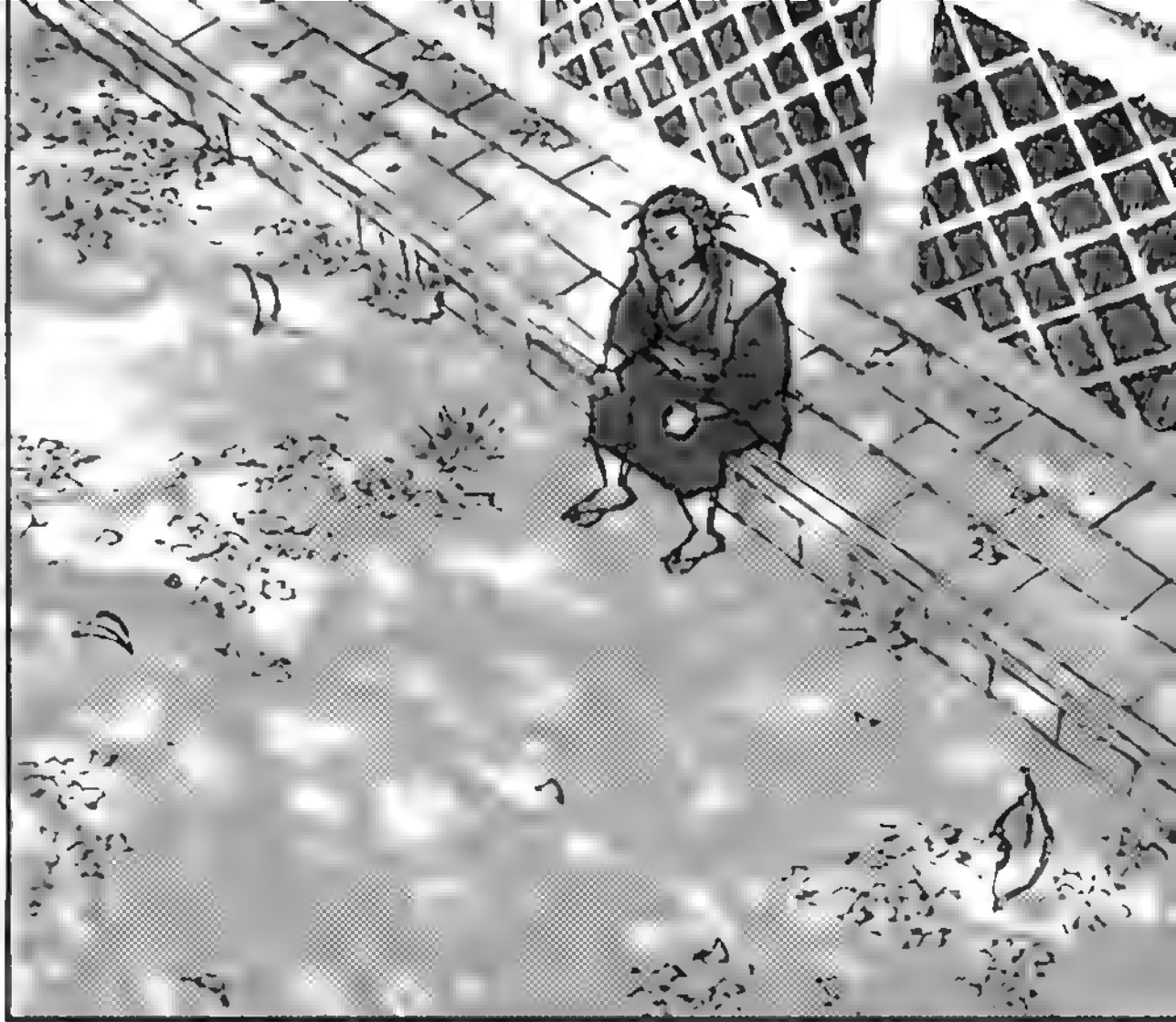
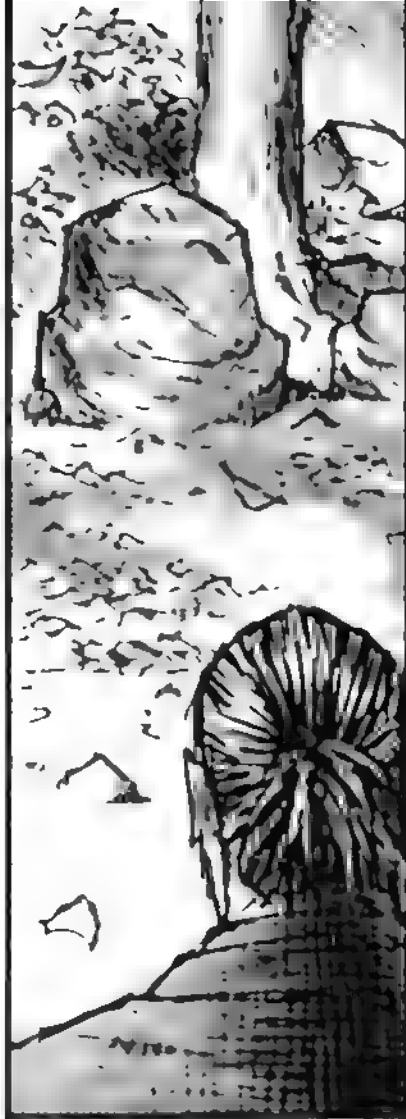
I JUST STATED THE FACTS!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH TELLING THE TRUTH?



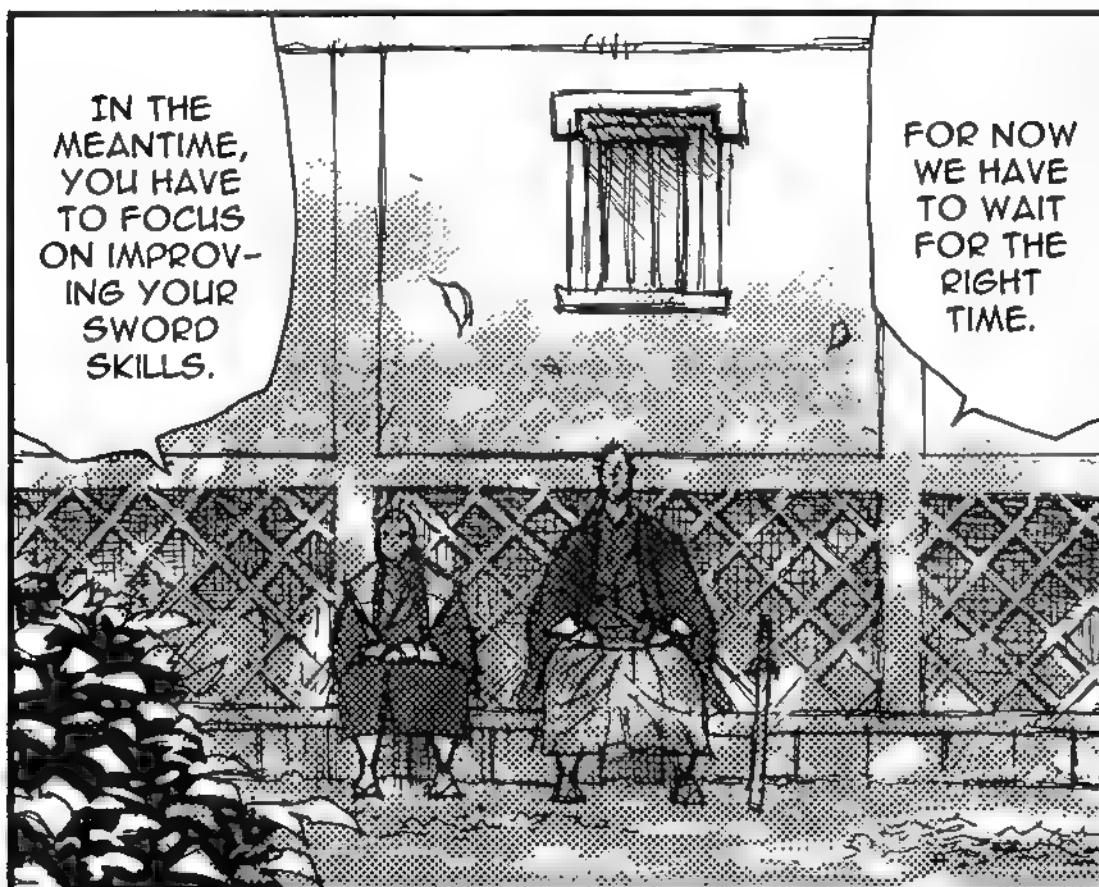
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SAYING THAT, ICHIZOU!

WHAT?!



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
USHI-
GOROU?







DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE MAN
NAMED
GYUJIZOU?
HE GOT INTO
A FIGHT WITH
ME AND YOU
CUT HIM
DOWN.



WHILE
PICKING THE
MEMBERS
FOR THE
SQUAD,



WHAT
ABOUT
HIM?

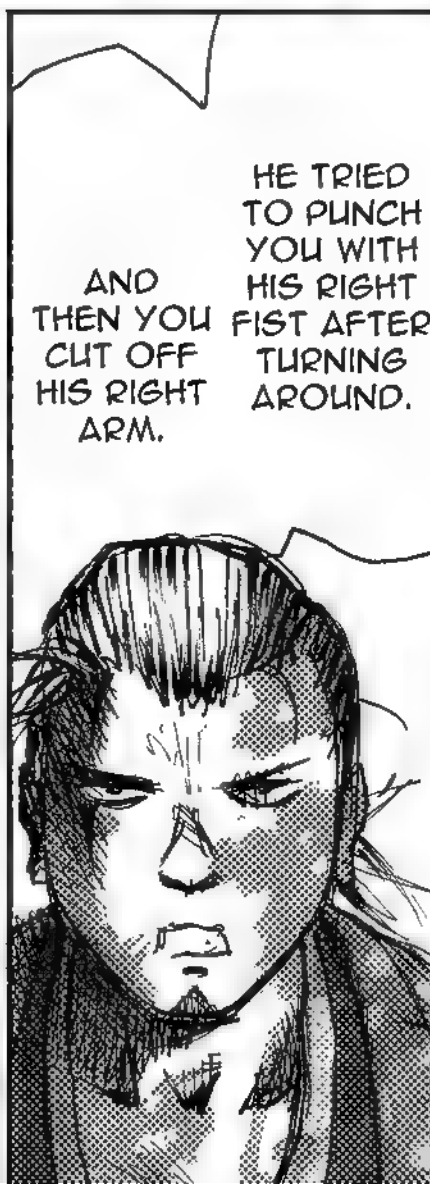
YES, NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT.



SHIMADA-
SAMA, I'M
WONDERING
HOW YOU
COULD HAVE
DONE THAT
IN A BLINK
OF AN EYE.

YOU
COULDN'T
HAVE AT-
TACKED HIM
LIKE THAT IF
YOU HAD TO
OBSERVE HIS
MOVEMENTS
FIRST.

THEN YOU
ATTACKED HIM
DIAGONALLY
FROM THE
OTHER SIDE
OF YOUR
SHOULDER
AND KILLED
HIM.



HE TRIED
TO PUNCH
YOU WITH
HIS RIGHT
FIST AFTER
TURNING
AROUND.
AND
THEN YOU
CUT OFF
HIS RIGHT
ARM.



IN
OTHER
WORDS,
THE ART
OF DRAW-
ING A
SWORD.

THAT'S
THE ART
OF IAI.

OH...
THAT...



I'VE
LEARNED
IT ON
MY OWN
DURING
COMBAT.

THAT
BEING
SAID,
I DIDN'T
LEARN
THAT IN A
DOJO.

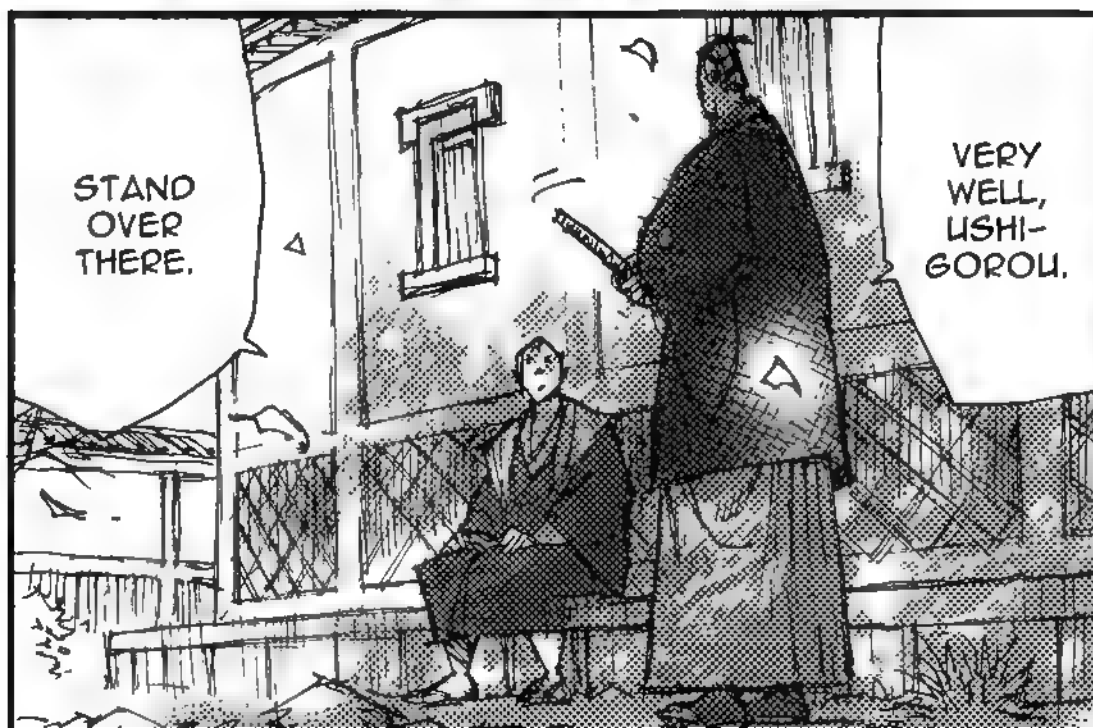


ART OF
DRAW-
ING A
SWORD?

IAI?



...

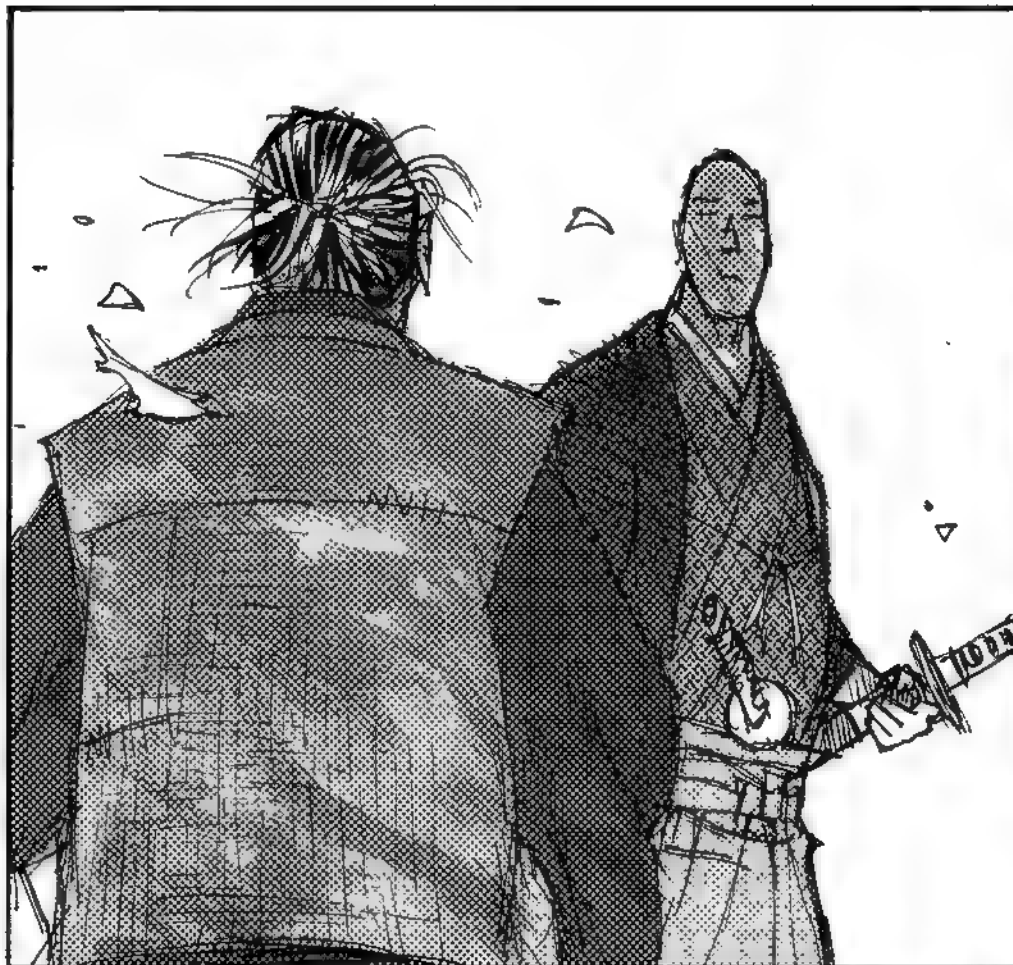


STAND
OVER
THERE.

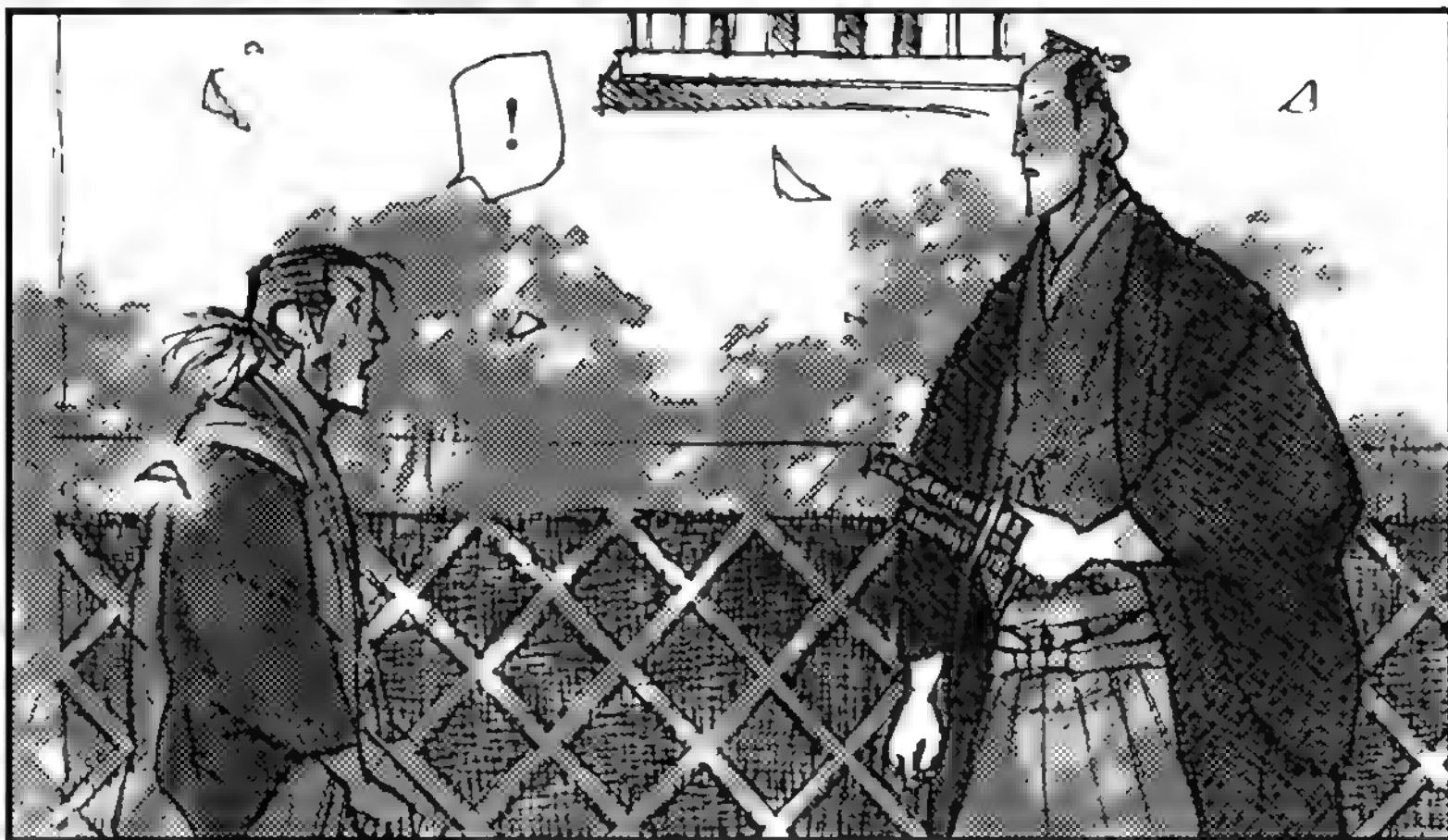
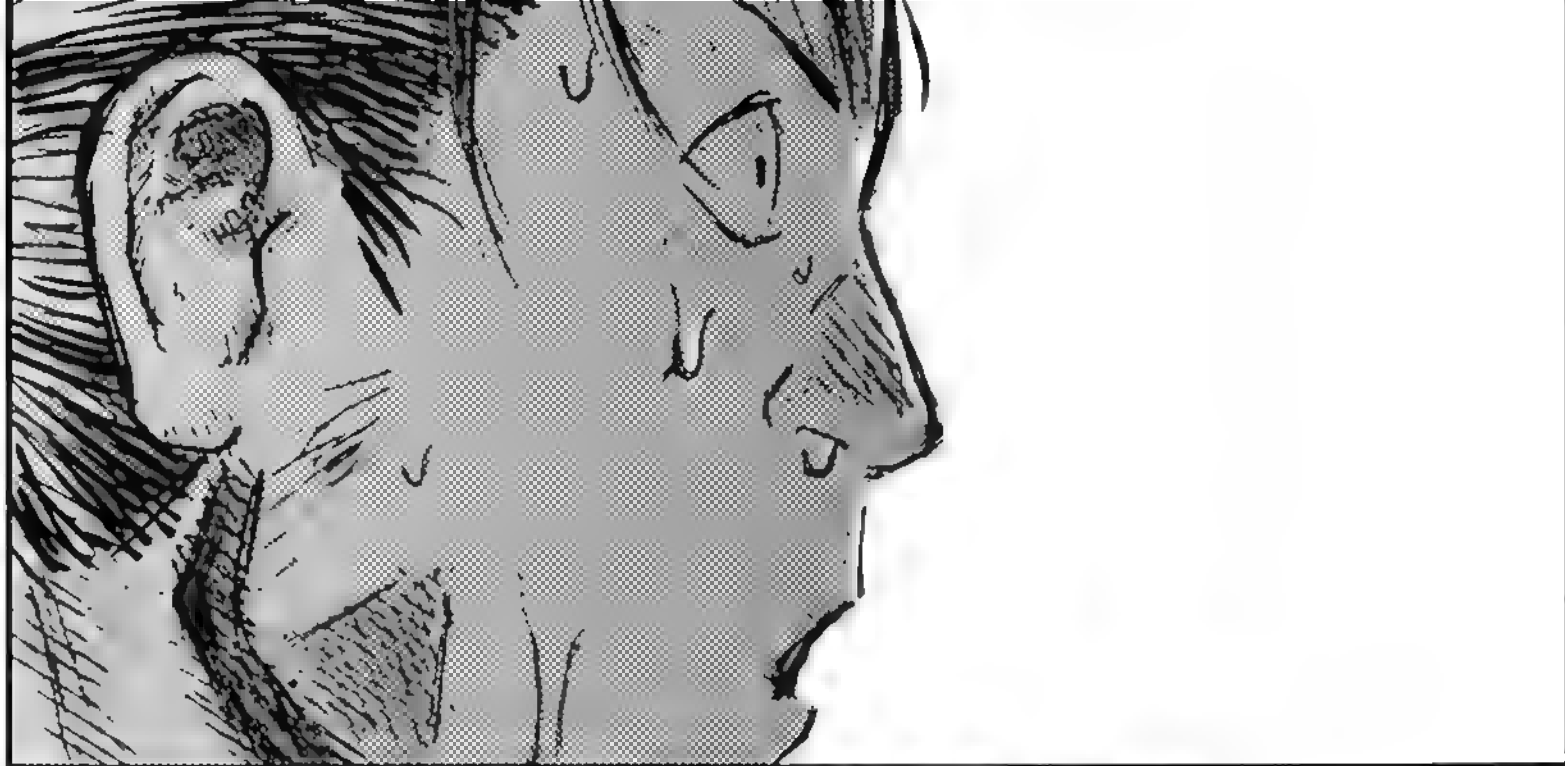
VERY
WELL,
USHI-
GOROU.

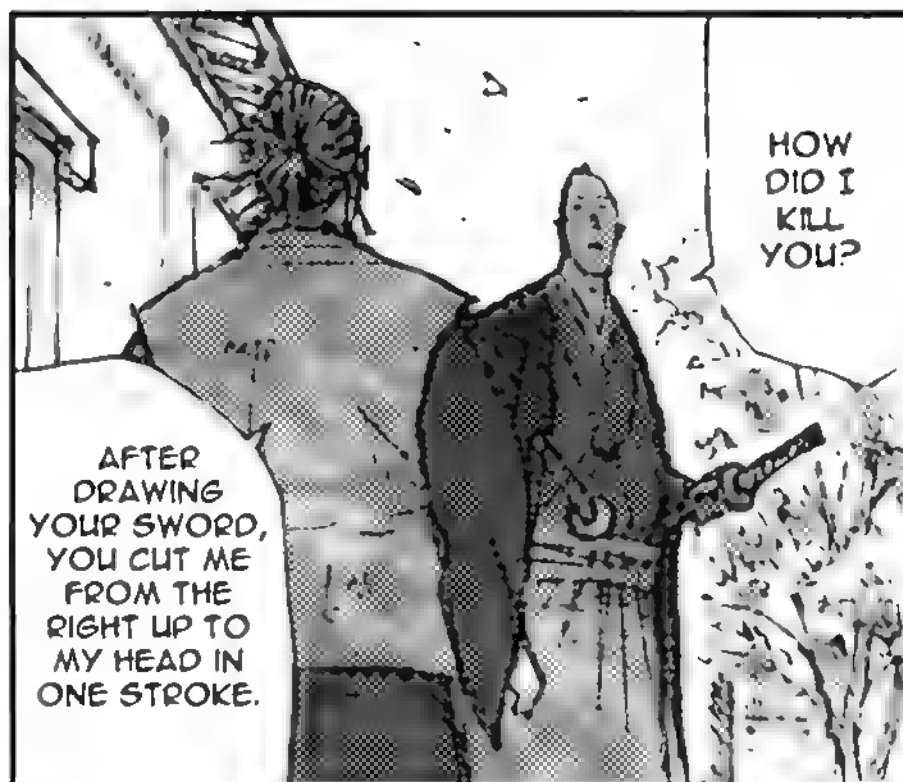


IT'S
HARD TO
EXPLAIN.









HOW
DID I
KILL
YOU?



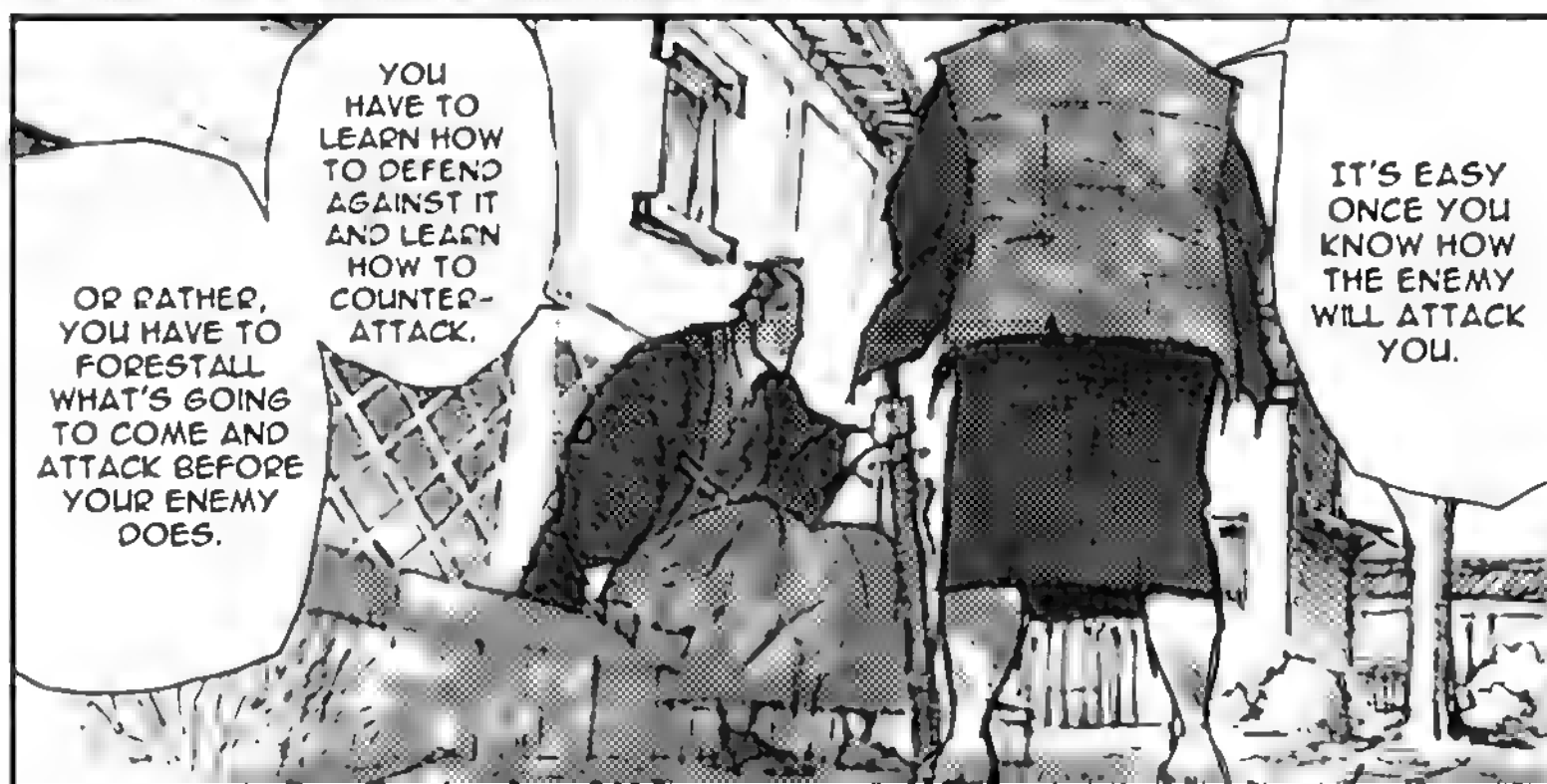
I WAS
JUST



I JUST
DIRECTED
MY KILLING
BLOOD LUST
TOWARDS
YOU.



CORRECT.



YOU
HAVE TO
LEARN HOW
TO DEFEND
AGAINST IT
AND LEARN
HOW TO
COUNTER-
ATTACK.

IT'S EASY
ONCE YOU
KNOW HOW
THE ENEMY
WILL ATTACK
YOU.



WHAT DO I DO, IF I FAIL TO ASSESS THE SITUATION?



THAT'S BASICALLY HOW IAI WORKS.



THE FIGHT BETWEEN EXPERIENCED WARRIORS BOILS DOWN TO WHO CAN READ HIS OPPONENT BETTER.

BUT TO READ THE ENEMY'S INTENTION TO KILL YOU.

YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO PREDICT,



THAT BEING SAID, I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF A WAY TO TRAIN FOR THAT.


THOSE WHO AREN'T NATURALLY WELL BUILT WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT REGARDLESS HOW HARD THEY TRAIN.



YEAH.

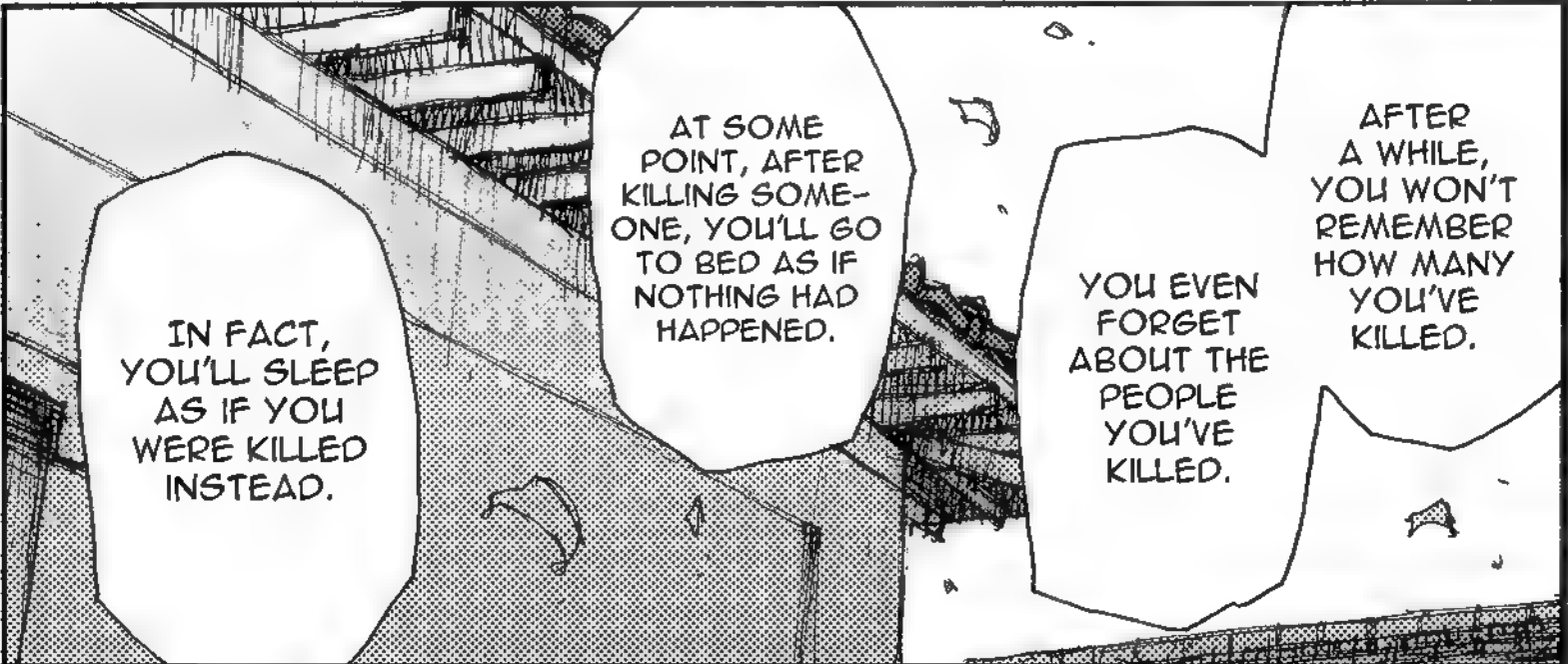
YOU ARE MUSCULAR.





KILL
AS MANY
PEOPLE
AS YOU
CAN.

YOU
HAVE TO
CUT DOWN
A LOT OF
PEOPLE.





IN FACT,
YOU'LL SLEEP
AS IF YOU
WERE KILLED
INSTEAD.

AT SOME
POINT, AFTER
KILLING SOME-
ONE, YOU'LL GO
TO BED AS IF
NOTHING HAD
HAPPENED.

YOU EVEN
FORGET
ABOUT THE
PEOPLE
YOU'VE
KILLED.

AFTER
A WHILE,
YOU WON'T
REMEMBER
HOW MANY
YOU'VE
KILLED.



YOUR
BODY WILL
REMEMBER
IT ALL ON
ITS OWN BY
THEN.

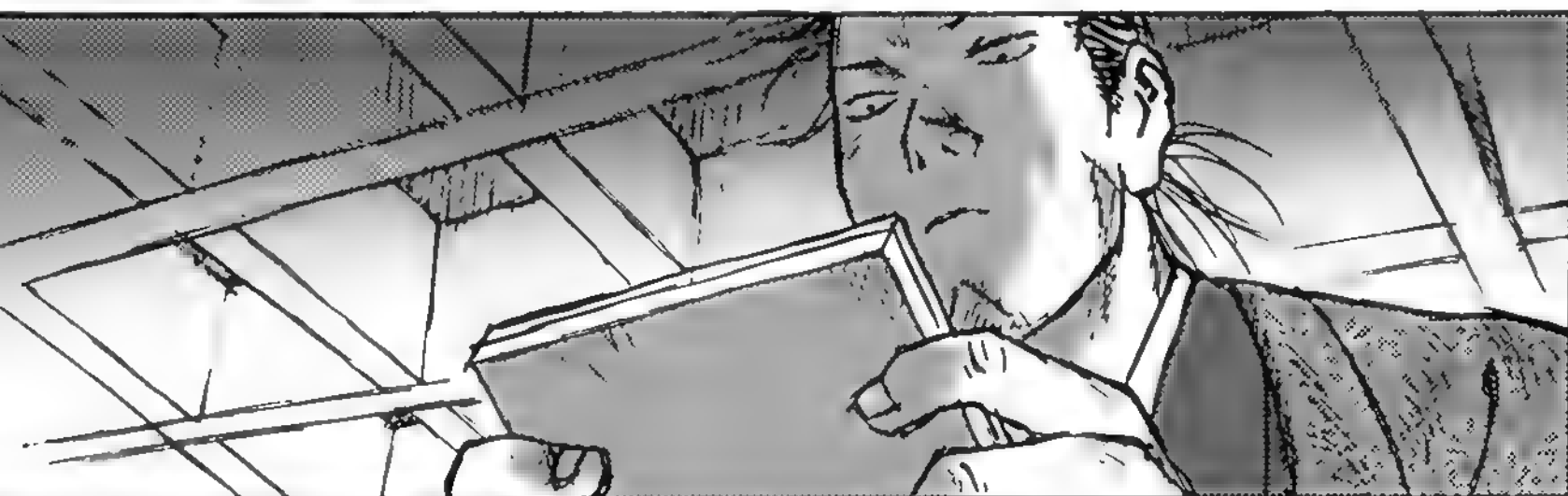
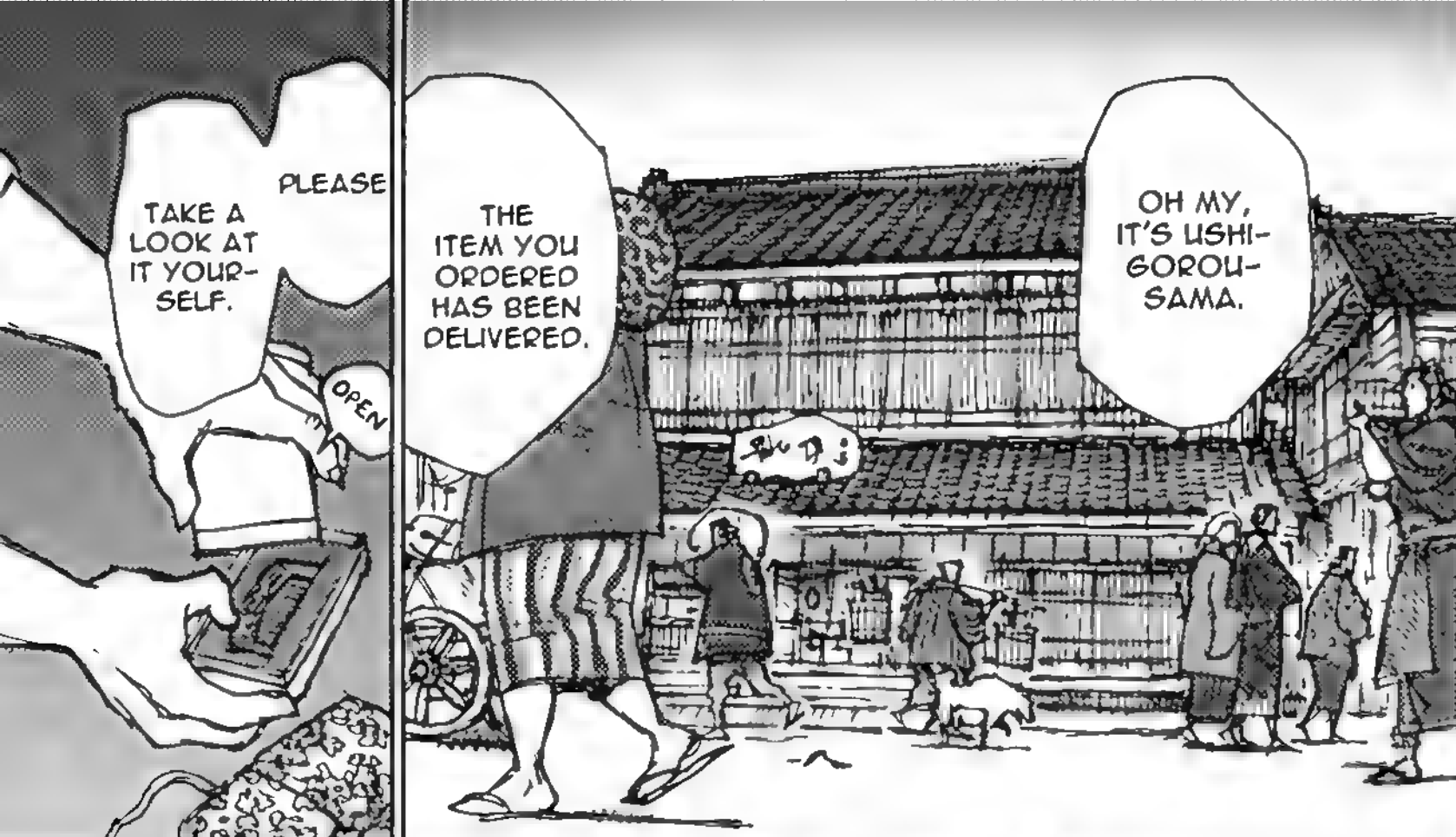
OF
COURSE,
IF YOU
SURVIVE
UNTIL
THEN.

HA HA
HA HA
HA HA!



CHAPTER 11 COMB AND A HAND





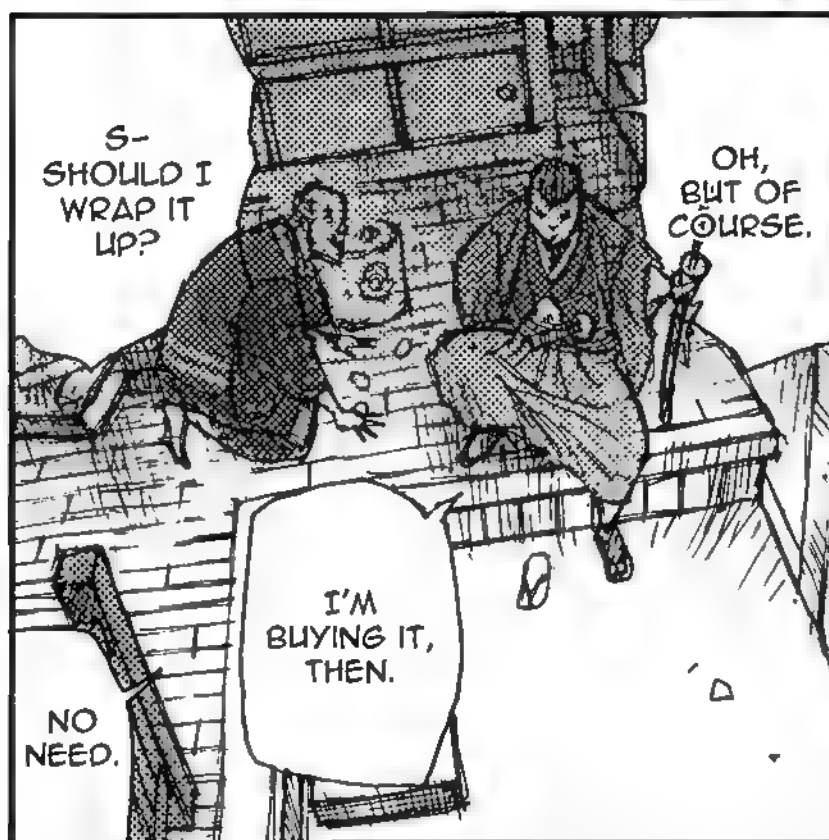
TL/N.
Raden is a
lacquerware
technique.



WILL YOU
BE ABLE
TO PAY...

THAT'S
WHY IT'S
A BIT EX-
PENSIVE...

AS YOU
CAN SEE,
IT'S A VERY
EXTRAV-
AGANT
PRODUCT.



S-
SHOULD I
WRAP IT
UP?

OH,
BUT OF
COURSE.

I'M
BUYING IT,
THEN.

NO
NEED.



IS THIS
ENOUGH?

!

SFX:
Flip



IS THAT
A PRESENT
FOR THE
PERSON
YOU
CHERISH?



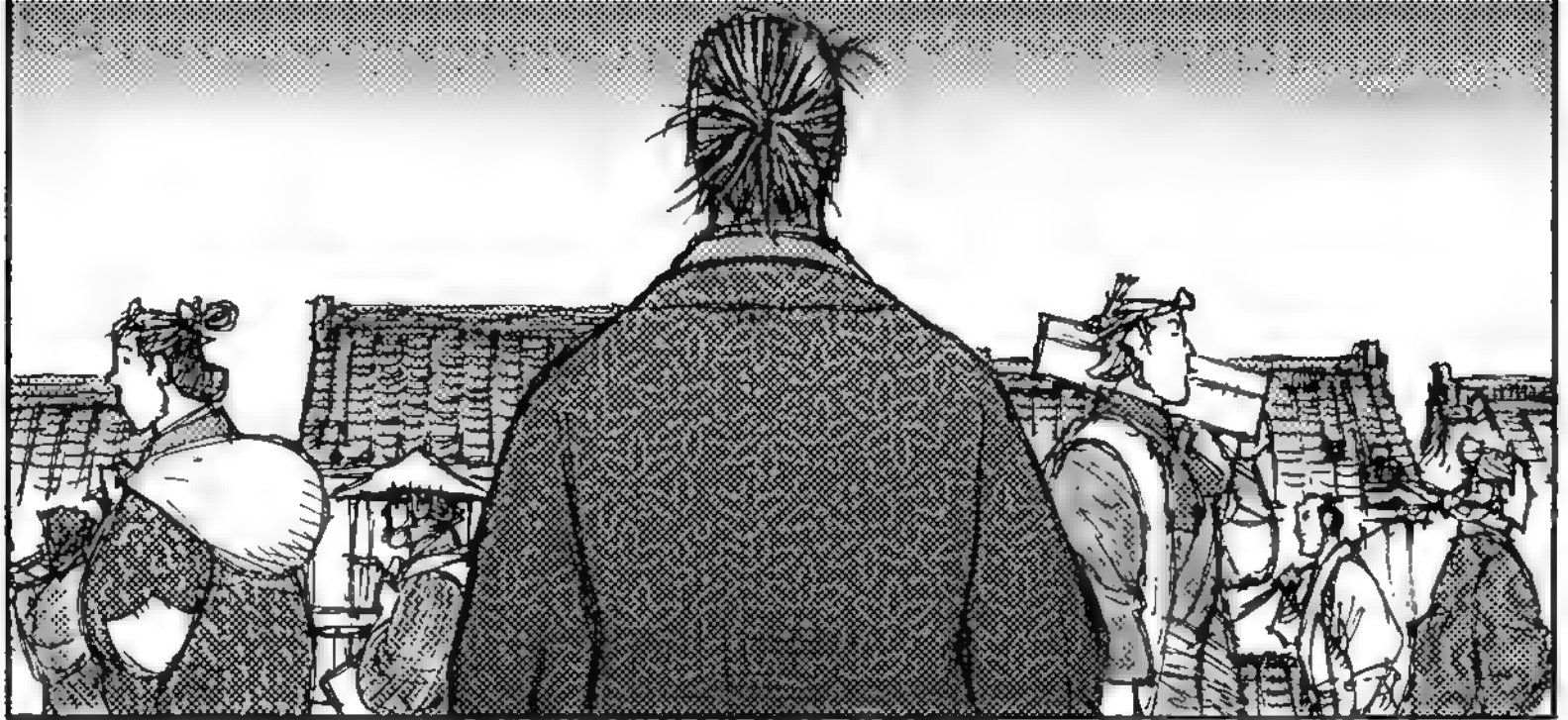
WHAT?



POSSESSING
SUCH A RARE
GEM WILL
MAKE A FINE
SAMURAI LIKE
YOURSELF
EVEN MORE
RESPECT-
ABLE.

I'M
ABSO-
LUTELY
SURE
OF IT.





I WONDER
IF THEY TAKE
THIS ALL FOR
GRANTED
BECAUSE THE
ROBBERIES
AND ASSAULTS
HAPPEN AT
NIGHT?



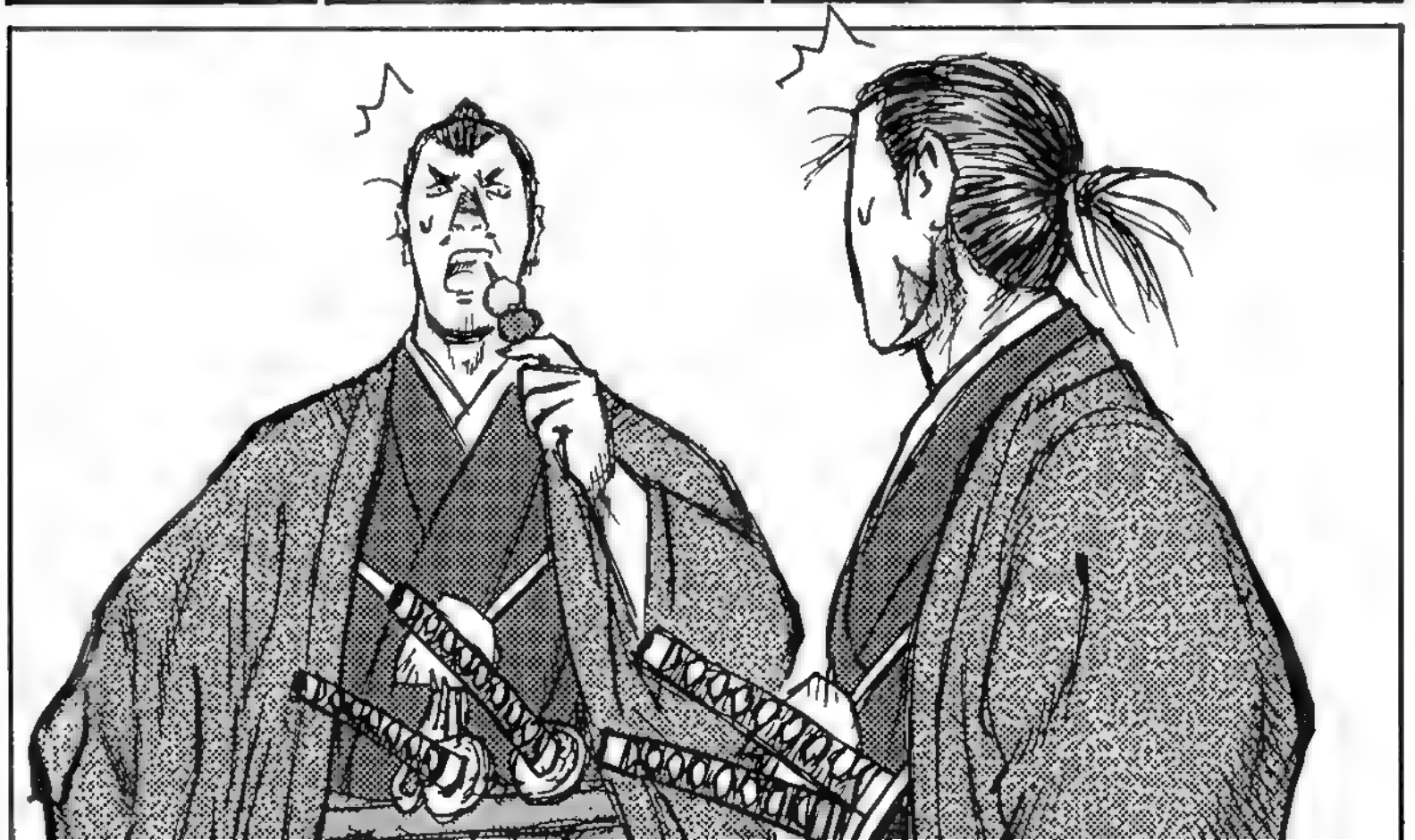
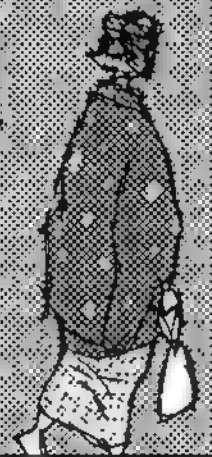
Kyaha
haha



IT'S LIKE
A COM-
PLETELY
DIFFERENT
TOWN AT
NIGHT.



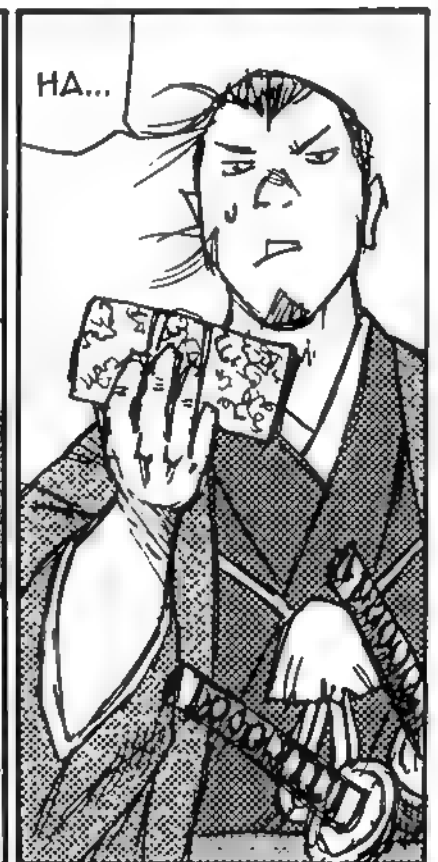
THIS
PLACE IS
SO LIVELY
DURING
DAYTIME.



SFX:
Hrmm



SFX:
Cover





WHERE
ELSE
WOULD I
GO?!

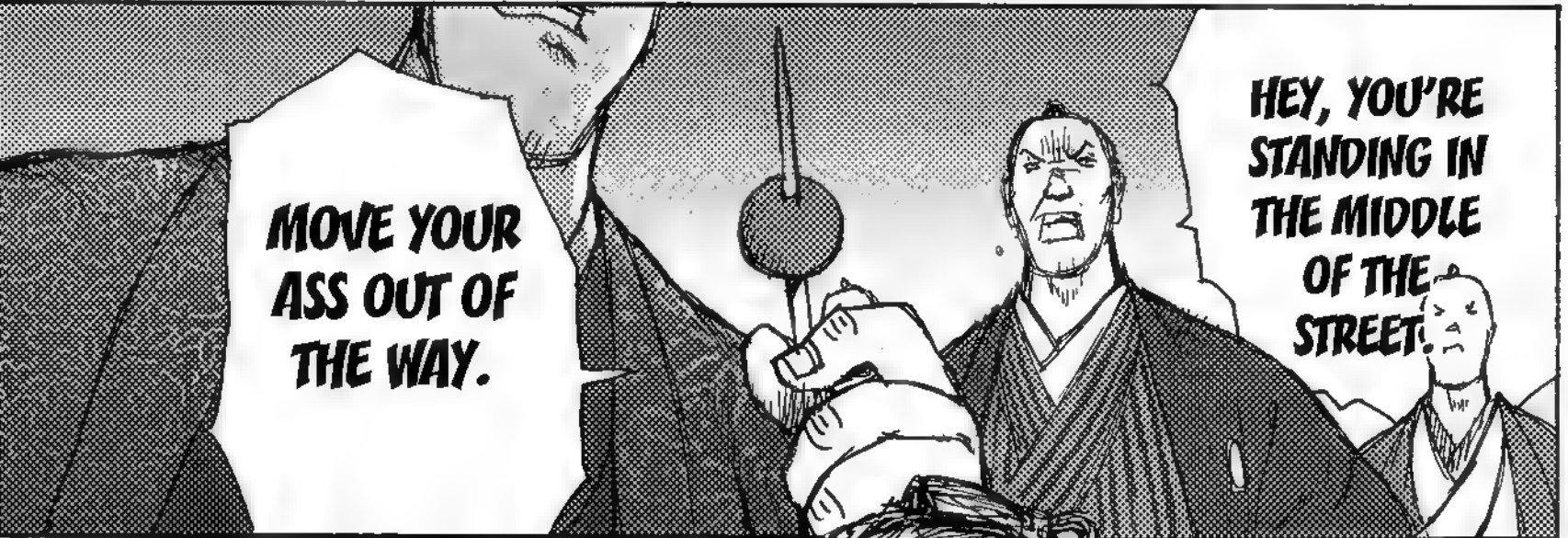
GO
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE,
ICHIZOU.

I'M
HEADED
TO IMU-
RAYA.

I'M ALSO
HEADED TO
IMURAYA.

WHA...

SFX: Turn

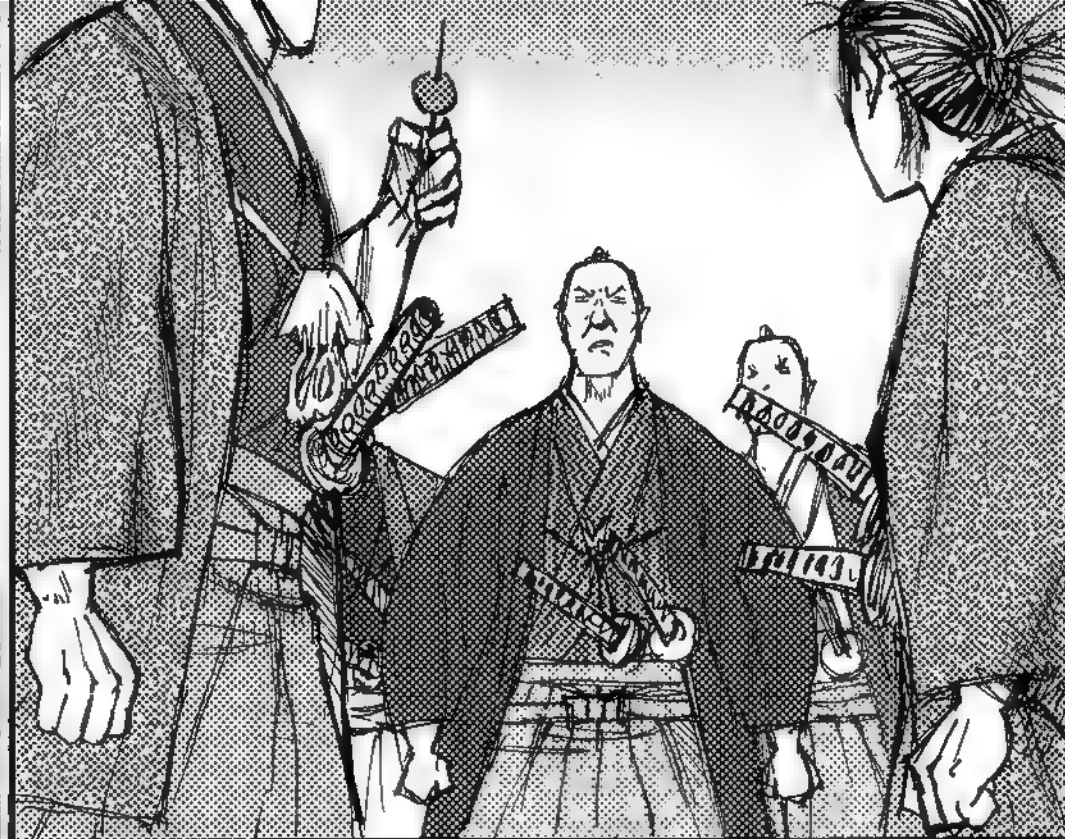


MOVE YOUR
ASS OUT OF
THE WAY.

HEY, YOU'RE
STANDING IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE
STREET!



EH?





SFX:
Running





YES,
PEASANT
CUSTOM-
ERS.

PEAS-
ANTS?



WHAT
ABOUT
THEM,
IMUDA-
SAMA?

NO...
WE DON'T
HAVE SUCH
CUSTOMERS
HERE AT
YANAGI.



DO YOU
KNOW
ANY OF
THEM?

THEY'RE
WEALTHY
DESPITE
BEING
PEAS-
ANTS.



OKAY...

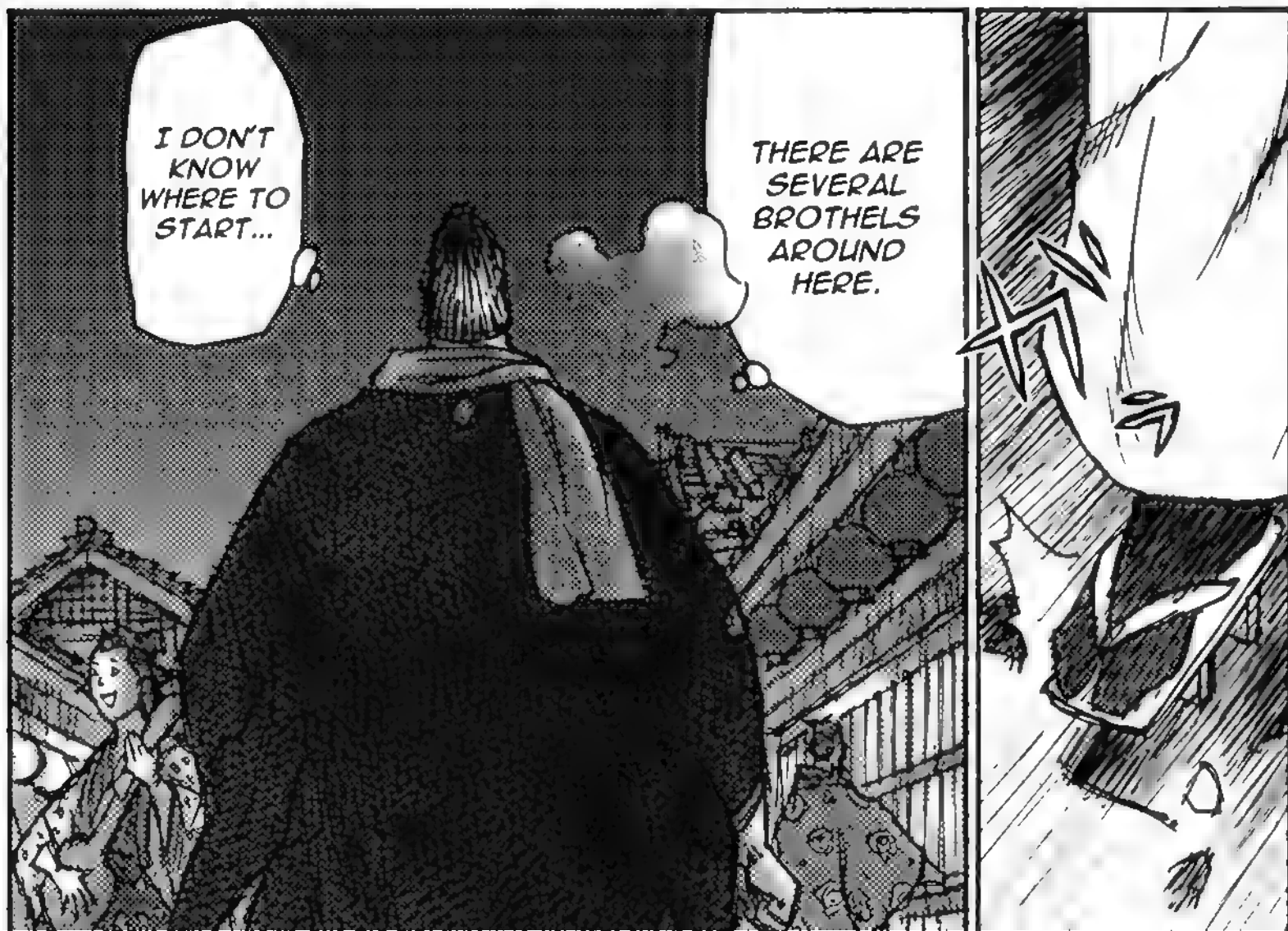
LET ME
KNOW IF
SOMEONE
LIKE THAT
WALKS IN.
I'LL PAY
YOU EVEN
MORE.



SFX:
Flip,
ching



OH, BUT OF COURSE.



SFX:
Slam!



NOTHING.
I WAS JUST
WANDERING
AROUND.





YOUR
ACTIONS
VIOLATE
THE CHAIN
OF COM-
MAND.

I DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
DO YOUR
OWN
THING.



IT'S NOT
YOUR
JOB TO
LOOK FOR
THOSE
KILLERS.

HOW MANY
TIMES DO I
HAVE TO
TELL YOU?



I FORGOT
THAT I HAD
STUPID COM-
RADES THAT
DESPITE THEIR
HARD EFFORTS,
DON'T GET
RESULTS.

OH,
I'M VERY
SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.



THERE HAVE
BEEN RUMORS
GOING AROUND
THAT YOU'VE
BEEN ASKING
ABOUT THEM AT
SO MANY
BROTHELS!

YOU... WATCH
YOUR TONGUE!
WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO ACCOM-
PLISH?!

WHAT'S
THAT?



YOU'RE JUST
A GREENHORN
WHO'S AFRAID
OF TARNISHING
YOUR HONOR.

SO
WHAT?



PULLING
OUT OUR
SWORDS
IS JUST
WHAT YOU
WANT.

WE
AREN'T
FALLING
FOR THAT.



STOP IT,
YOU
FOOL!

WHA...

SFX:
Clack!



I HIGHLY
REGARD
YOUR
COURAGE
AND SKILL
AS A
SWORDS-
MAN...

I JUST
CAME TO
GIVE YOU
A WARN-
ING.



OH?



IF YOU
STAY ON
THIS PATH,
YOU'LL
BE ALL
ALONE.

HAS
MADE YOU
FORGET
WHAT LIES
AHEAD.

HOWEVER,
YOUR SELFISH
PERSONALITY
THAT REJECTS
ANYONE ELSE
AND DOING
ONLY WHAT
YOU WANT
TO DO



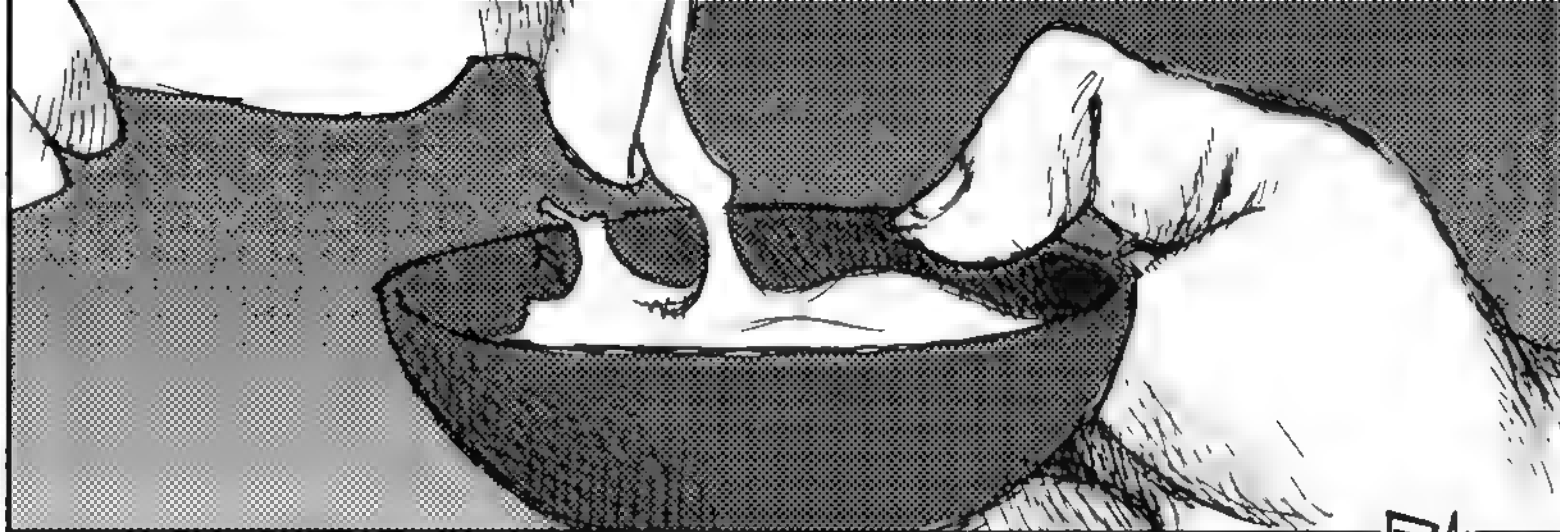
I SEE.
I'LL KEEP
THAT IN
MIND.



LET'S
GO.

I WANT
TO AVOID
A SECOND
TERADAYA
REBEL-
LION...

TL/N: The Teradaya Incident was an internal conflict within Satsuma where pro-imperial loyalists attempted an insurgency in Kyoto against the will of the Satsuma Daimyo. The incident ended with the death of many insurgents and the surrender of the remaining rebels.



YOU PAY
SO MUCH
MONEY FOR
ME, YET YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
SLEEP WITH
ME ONCE.

YOU'RE A
STRANGE
PERSON,
USHIGOROU-
SAN.



SFX:
Gulp



YES,
BUT...

SHUT UP.
IT'S MY
BUSINESS
WHAT I DO
WITH MY
MONEY.



WHAT?

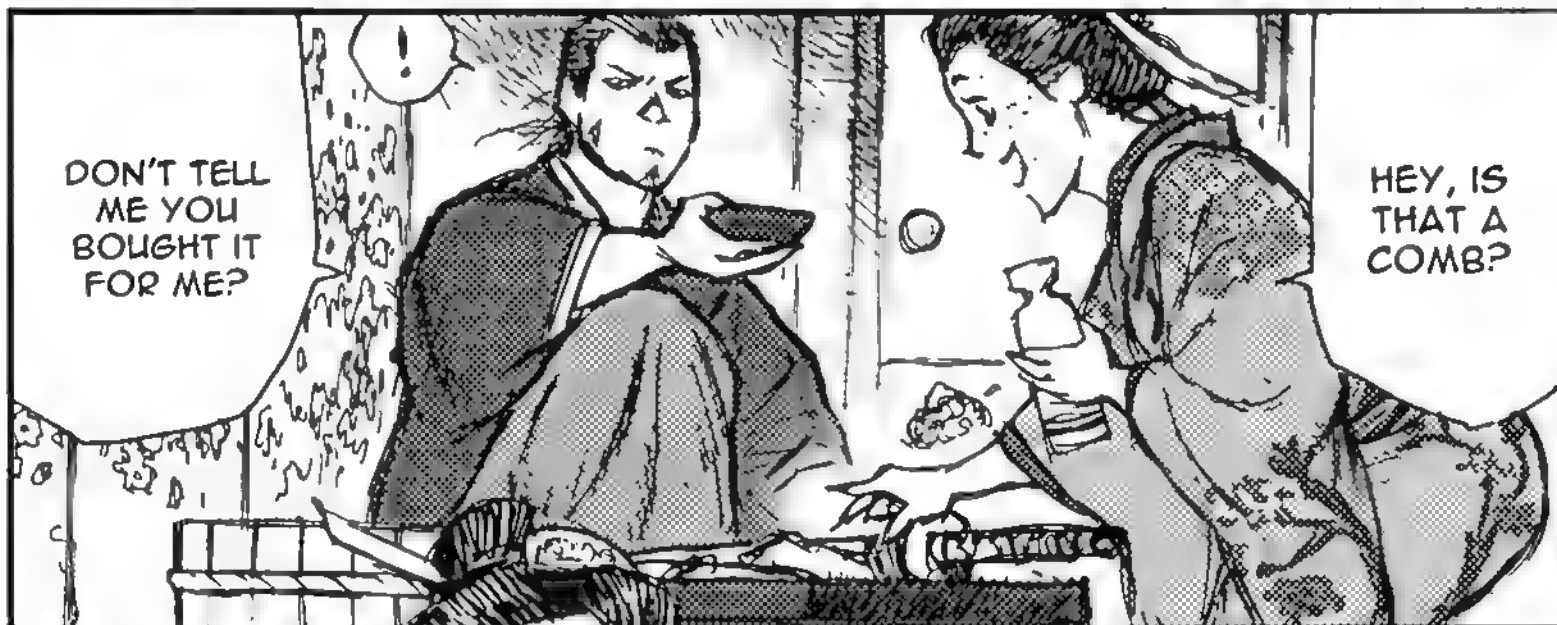


BEATS
ME!

B...



IF YOU
DON'T DO
ANYTHING,
I'LL GET
FLAK
FROM THE
BOSS.



DON'T TELL
ME YOU
BOUGHT IT
FOR ME?

HEY, IS
THAT A
COMB?



I WAS
JUST
KIDDING.
♡

HAHAHA.



THIS
ISN'T
FOR
YOU.

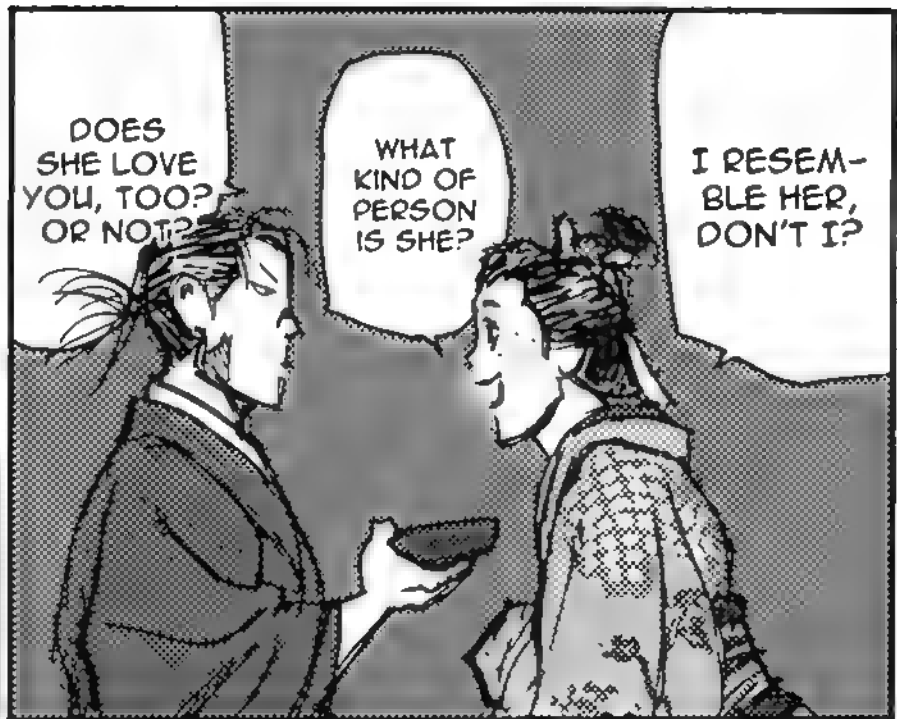
DON'T
TOUCH
IT!



BULL'S
EYE,
HUH?

YOU'RE
GIVING
THAT TO
CHIYO-
SAN,
RIGHT?





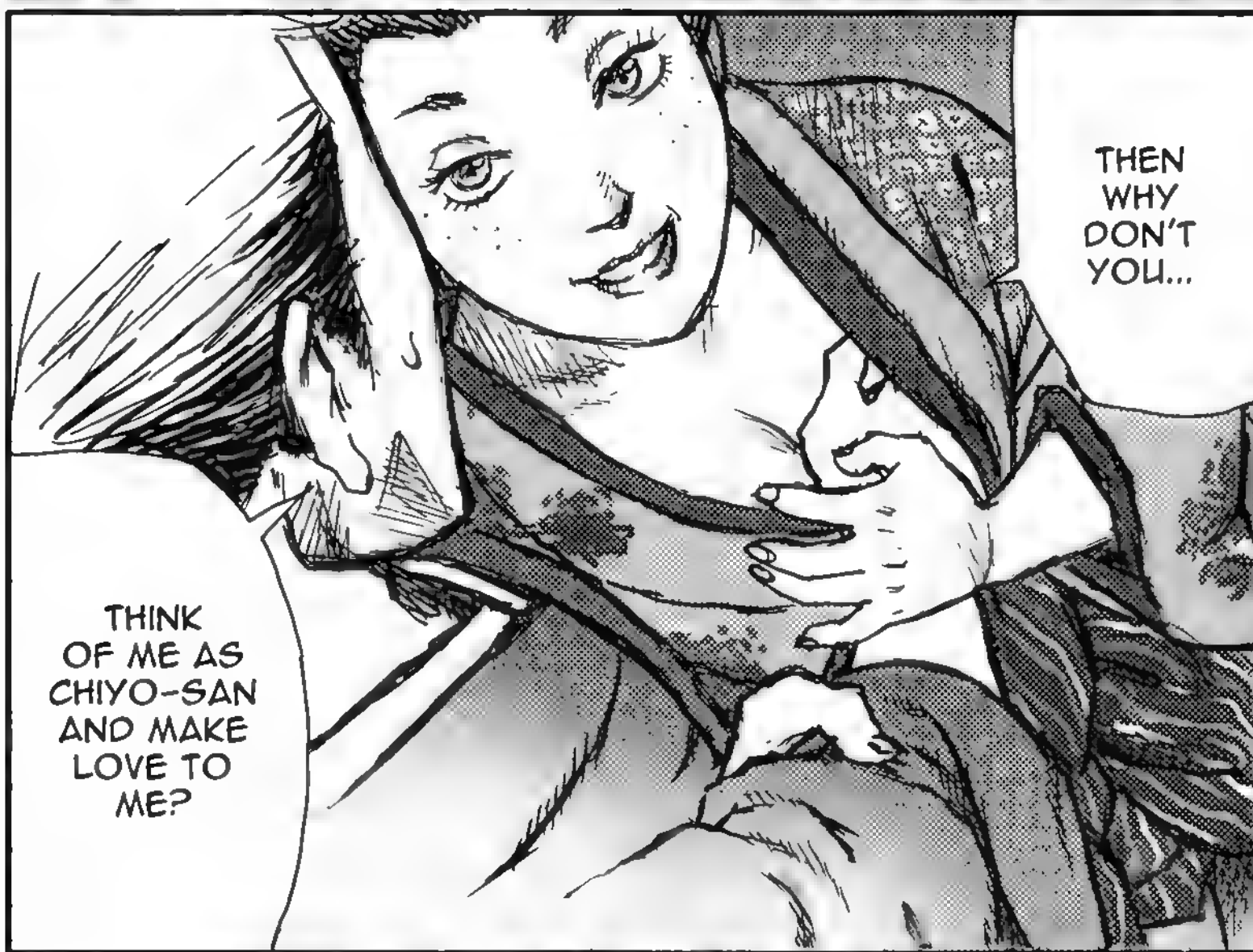


I LOOK
LIKE
CHIYO-
SAN,
RIGHT?

EH?



SQUISH



THEN
WHY
DON'T
YOU...

THINK
OF ME AS
CHIYO-SAN
AND MAKE
LOVE TO
ME?



USHI-
GOROU-
SAN.

I LOVE
YOU,

SFX: Kiss, lick

SFX: Shove, Wham!



STOP IT!

KYAAAH!



THINK OF
YOU AS
CHIYO?



USHI-
GOROU-
SAN?

U...



**YOU
AREN'T
CHIYO!**

**FUCK
YOU!**



**YOU'RE JUST
A WHORE!
DON'T GET
AHEAD OF
YOURSELF!**

**YOU'RE A
PROSTITUTE
THAT SPREADS
HER LEGS
FOR ANYONE
WHO PAYS.**



I'M NOT
DOING THIS
BECAUSE I
WANT TO!

THAT'S
AWFUL,
USHI-
GOROU-
SAN!



AND SEE
MOTHER
AND
FATHER.

I WANT
TO GO
HOME



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

USHI-
GOROU-
SAN,

YOU'RE
PUTTING
ME IN
AN EVEN
WORSE
MOOD.

ENOUGH!





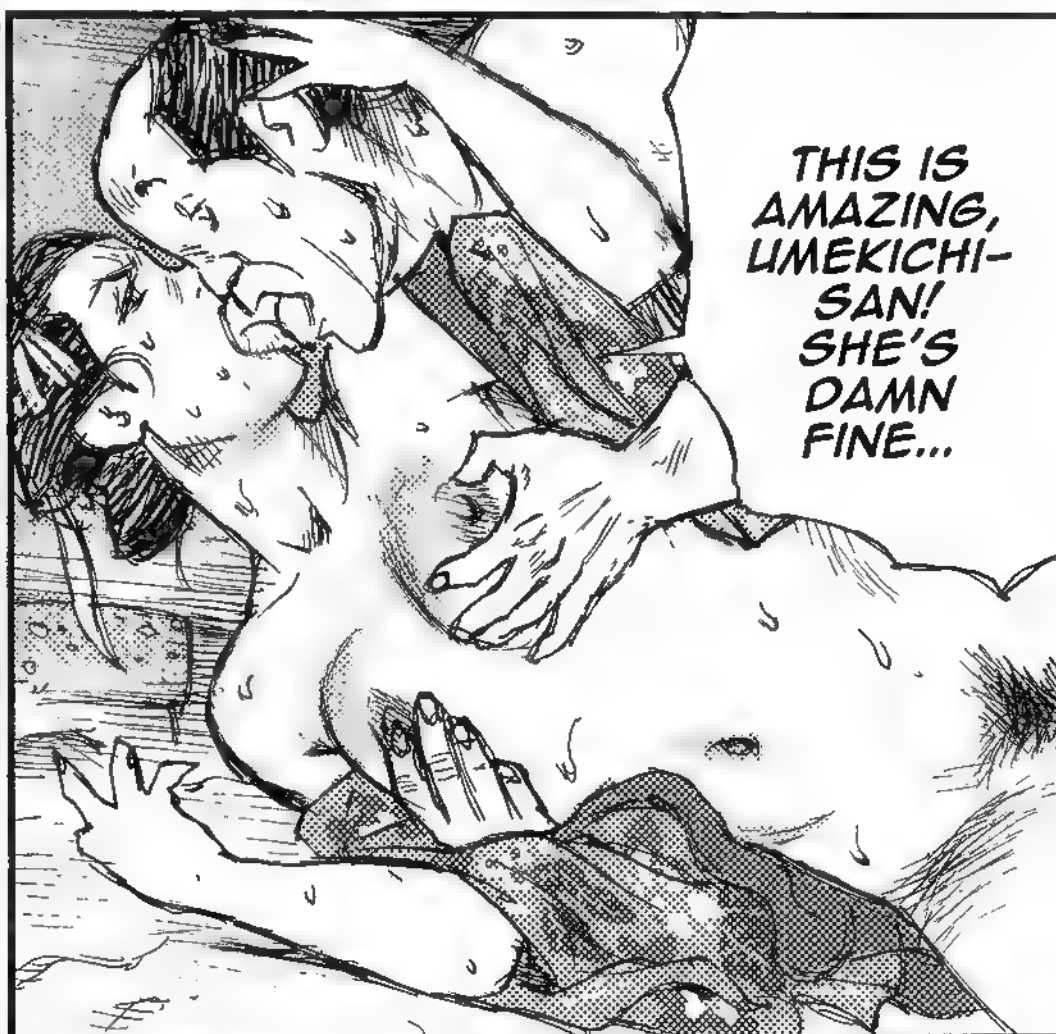
SFX:
Thump,
thump,
thump



IT'S
TIME.
GET
READY!



THIS IS
AMAZING,
UMEKICHI-
SAN!
SHE'S
DAMN
FINE...



SFX:
Munch,
munch



OF
COURSE!
JUST WAIT
FOR ME
LIKE A
GOOD
GIRL,
TAMA.

PROMISE
ME THAT
YOU'LL
COME BACK
TOMOR-
ROW.





EVERYONE IS HERE. ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.

OH, THERE YOU ARE USHI-GOROU

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR...



THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME TILL CURFEW.

DON'T "I SEE."

I SEE

IT'S SAFER THAT WAY.



WE AREN'T KIDS. WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO ALL TOGETHER, HOLDING HANDS?



HAHAHA. PRETTY HONEST, AREN'T WE?

SHUT UP! DOING IT WITH TAMA IS MY LIFE'S PURPOSE!

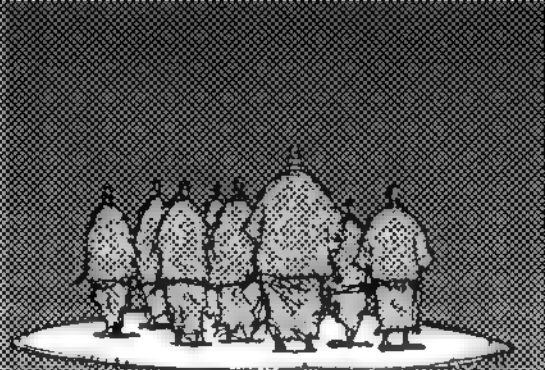
HOW MUCH STAMINA DOES YOUR DICK HAVE? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FUCKING TODAY?

SFX: Starling



IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

OH MY, IT'S IMUDA-SAMA.

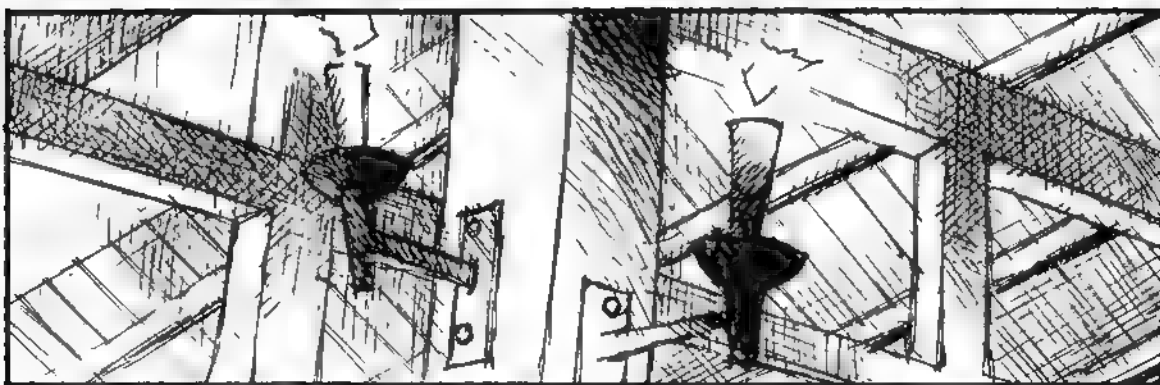


SFX:
Thud



I'M NOT HERE TO HAVE FUN TONIGHT.

A GROUP JUST LEFT THIS PLACE. THE WOMEN ARE ALL FREE NOW.



DO YOU KNOW ANY?

YES. WEALTHY PEAS-ANTS.

PEAS-ANTS?

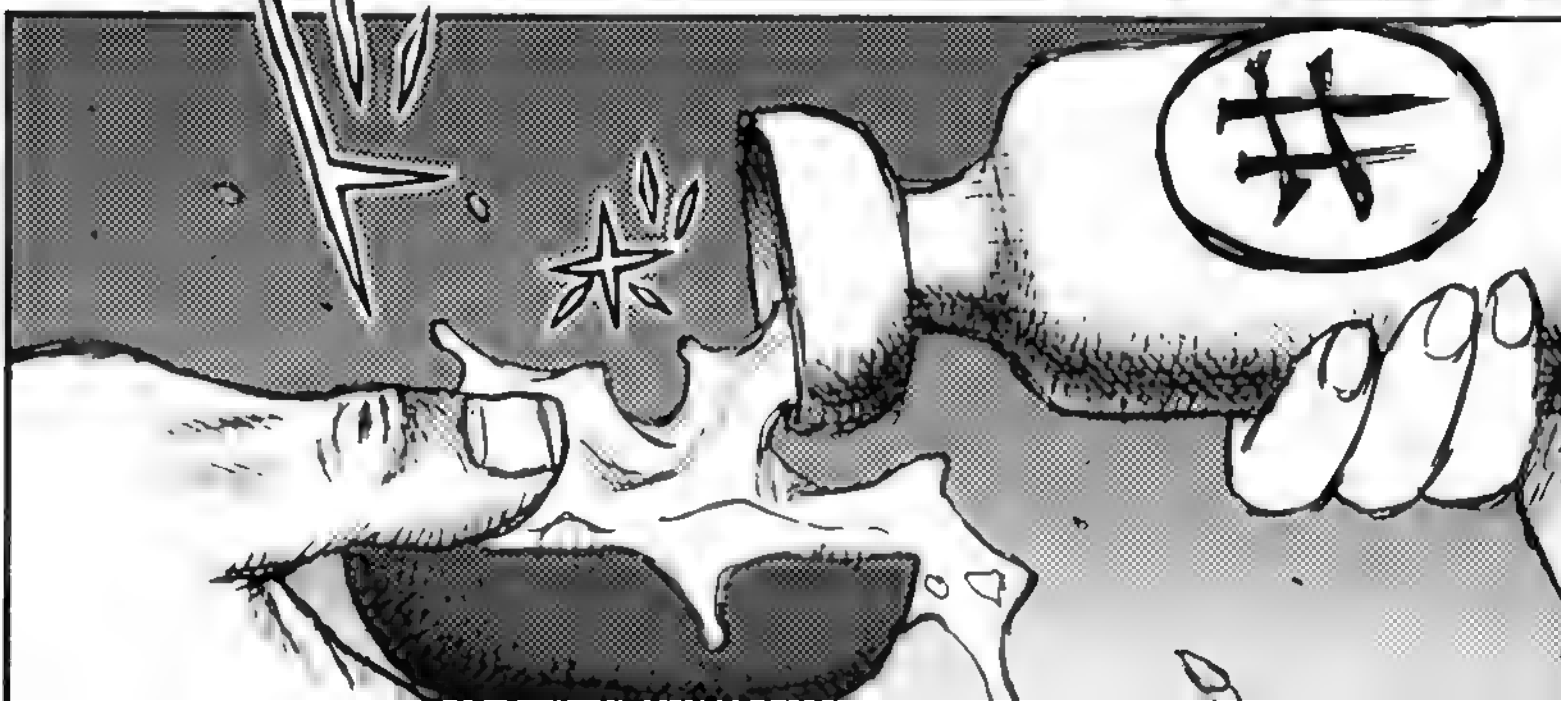


OH?

WHAT'S THE REASON FOR YOUR VISIT?



SFX:
Splash



SFX:
Sulking



SFX:
Drip,
drip

DO
YOU HATE
POURING
SAKE FOR
ME THAT
MUCH?

WHAT
IS IT,
SONO?




THERE'S
THIS SAMU-
RAI THAT
BOUGHT ME
TODAY...

SOMETHING
IRRITATING?
WHAT HAP-
PENED?

SOME-
THING
REALLY
IRRITATING
HAPPENED
TODAY.

THAT'S
NOT IT.





SO THAT'S
WHY YOUR
EYES ARE
SWOLLEN.

I SEE.




PLEASE
DON'T TEASE
ME NOW,
IMUDA-SAMA.
I'M REALLY
PISSSED!

YOUR
FACE
AFTER
WHINING
ISN'T
THAT BAD
EITHER,
SONO.



I'VE
BEEN
CRYING
THE
WHOLE
TIME!

HE
CALLED
ME A
WHORE!



EVEN
THOUGH
THEY CARRY
SWORDS,
THEY BEHAVE
LIKE PEAS-
ANTS!

IT'S NOT
JUST HIM.
THE GROUP
HE COMES
TOGETHER
WITH ARE
ALL LIKE
HIM.



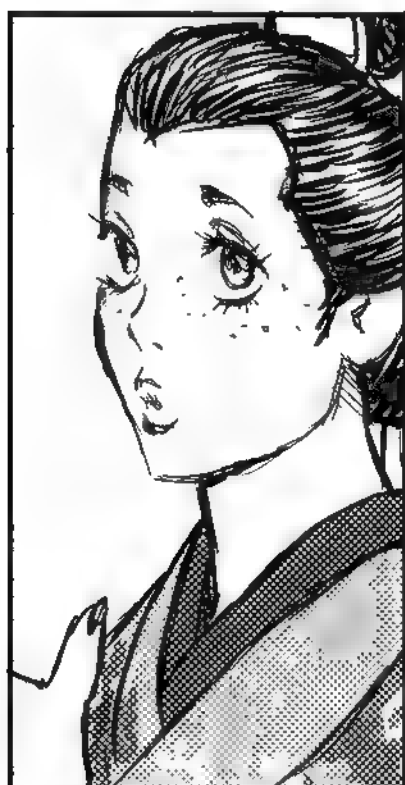
HE
MIGHT BE
WEALTHY
AND WEAR-
ING A FINE
HAORI, BUT
IT REALLY
DOESN'T
FIT HIM.

HE SAYS
THAT HE'S
A SAMURAI,
BUT HE
ABSOLUTELY
DOESN'T
SPEAK LIKE
ONE.



WITHOUT
A DOUBT,
THEY'RE THE
HANDS OF A
PEASANT.

I CAN
TELL IT BY
LOOKING AT
THEIR HANDS.
THOSE ARE
THE HANDS OF
SOMEONE
THAT WORKED
IN THE
FIELDS.



HEY,
SONO.



SFX:
Gulp

OF THAT
PEASANT
SAMURAI?

WHAT'S
THE
NAME

CHAPTER 12 MEETING



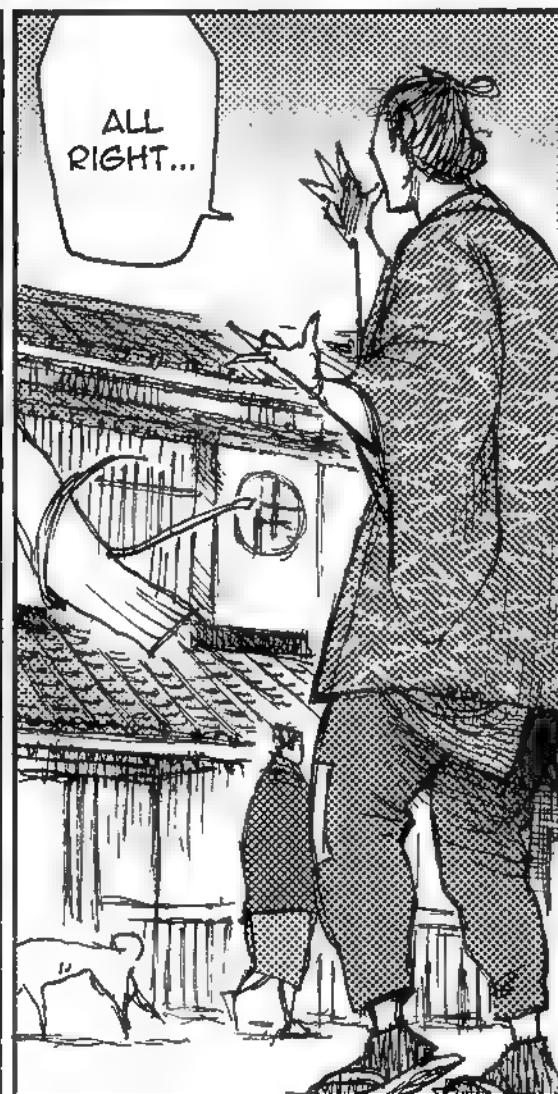
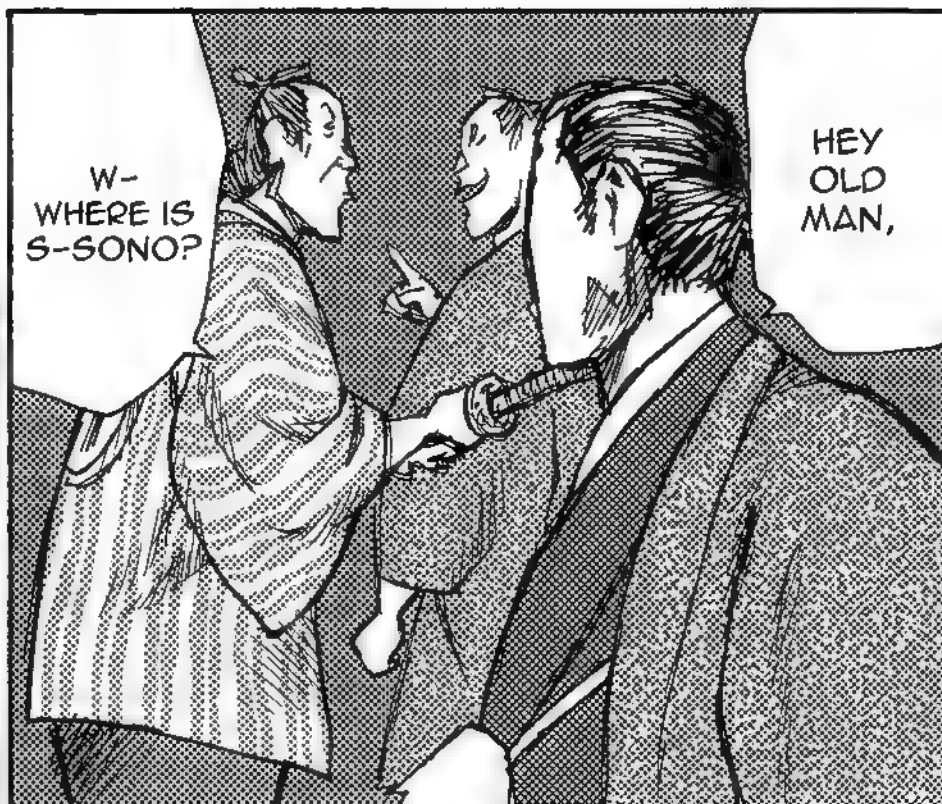


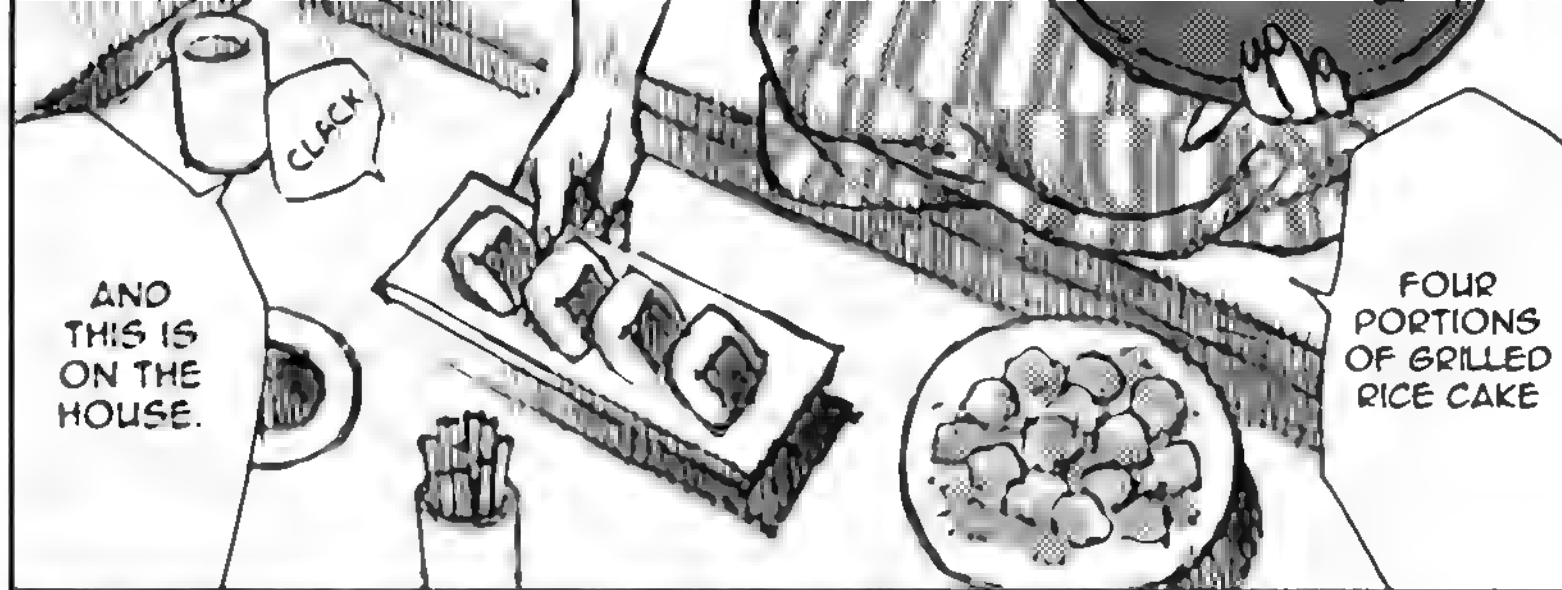
SFX:
Chomp



SFX:
Munch
munch







AND
THIS IS
ON THE
HOUSE.

FOUR
PORTIONS
OF GRILLED
RICE CAKE



ACCORDING
TO THE
BOSS OF
IMURAYA,
THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO
LOOK LIKE
SAMURAI,
BUT ACT
LIKE PEAS-
ANTS..

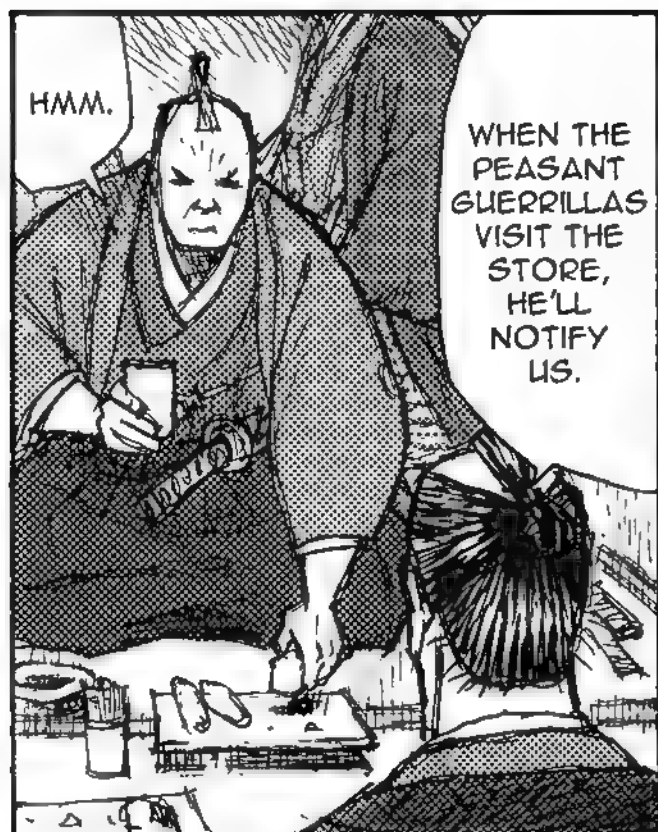
WEL-
COME
IN!

THEY
SEEM TO
BE VERY
ARROGANT
AND SPEND
MONEY
WILDLY.



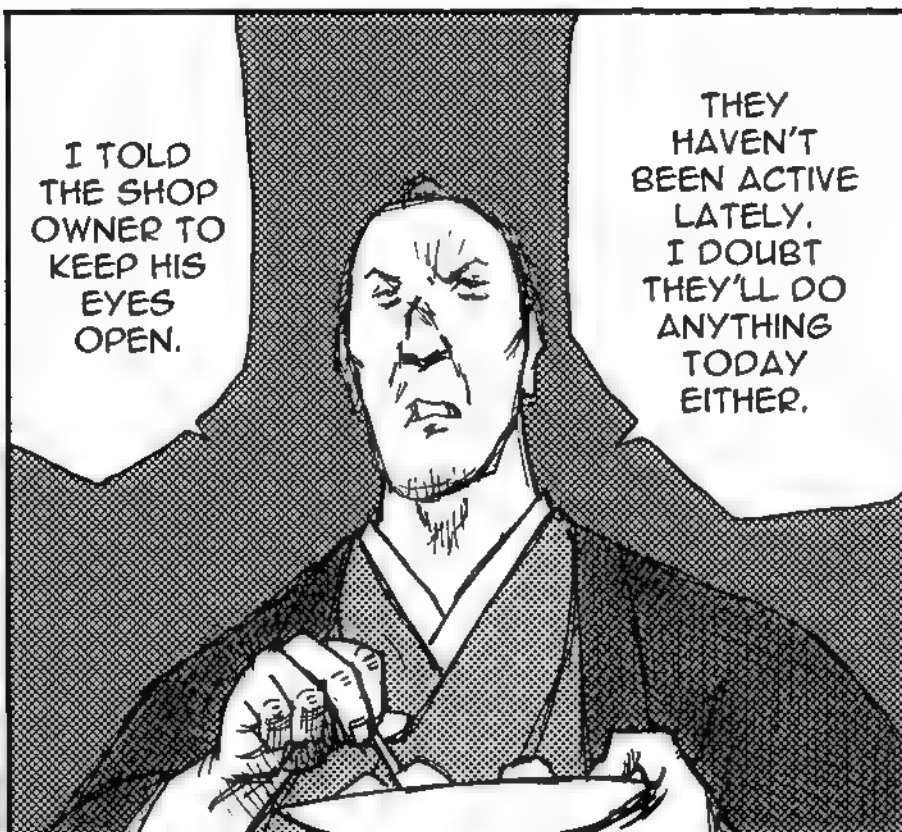
THERE'S
NO MISTAKE.
THEY'RE THE
PEASANT
GUERRILLAS.

FURTHERMORE,
THEY ONLY
COME TO THE
STORE THE
DAY AFTER A
SNEAK ATTACK
HAPPENS.



HMM.

WHEN THE
PEASANT
GUERRILLAS
VISIT THE
STORE,
HE'LL
NOTIFY
US.



I TOLD
THE SHOP
OWNER TO
KEEP HIS
EYES
OPEN.

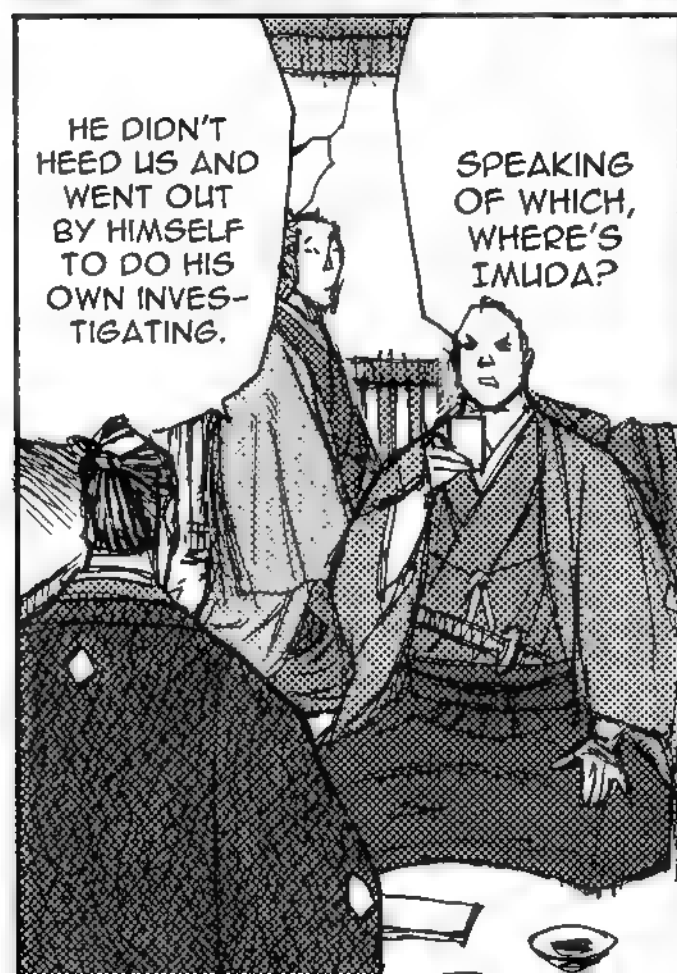
THEY
HAVEN'T
BEEN ACTIVE
LATELY.
I DOUBT
THEY'LL DO
ANYTHING
TODAY
EITHER.



WE HAVE
TO TEACH
THOSE
PEASANTS
A LESSON!

MUNCH

KAIEDA-
DONO,
WHEN THEY
VISIT THE
STORE, LET'S
MASSACRE
THEM ALL!



HE DIDN'T
HEED US AND
WENT OUT
BY HIMSELF
TO DO HIS
OWN INVESTIGATING.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH,
WHERE'S
IMUDA?



I-I
SEE.

FIRST
WE HAVE
TO LOCATE
THEIR HEAD-
QUARTERS.
WE HAVE TO
FIGURE OUT
WHO'S MA-
NIPULATING
THOSE
PEASANTS.



BUT...

WE MUSTN'T
RUSH THIS.
LET THEM GO
BACK AND
WE'LL TAIL
THEM.



SIR!

I SEE.



SO HE
WON'T
TELL
IMUDA
ANY-
THING.

I BRIBED
THE BOSS
OF IMU-
RAYA,



YEAH.
A GROUP
MATCHING
THAT DE-
SCRIPTION
CAME TO
IMURAYA
A WHILE
AGO.

ARE
YOU
SURE?

**THEY'VE
COME!**



**WE'RE
GOING
TO GET
THEM!**

ALRIGHT!

SFX:
Swords
clanging



GUH...



P-
PLEASE...
I CAN'T
TAKE ANY
MORE.

YOU'RE
KILLING
ME...
IMUDA-
SAMA...

SFX:
Trembling



III
III
III
III!

SFX:
Thump,
thump.

SFX:
Burning



UGA
AA
AH!

SFX:
Shake,
shake



HE...
THAT
GUY...

AND
THAT
GUY...

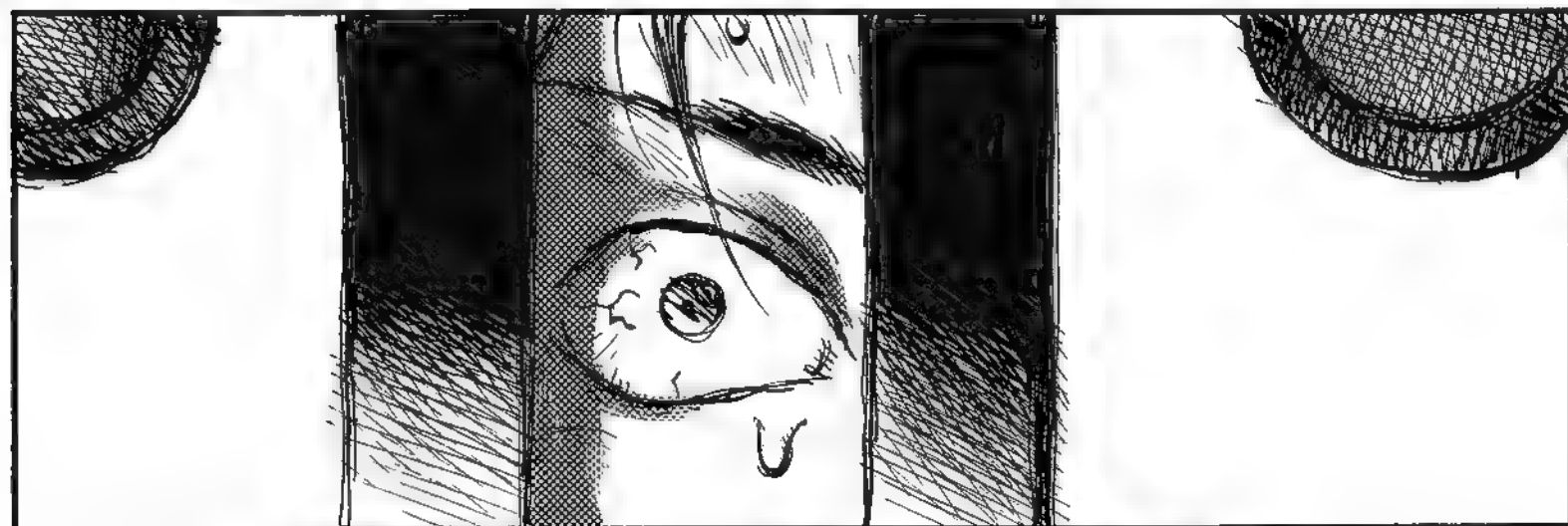
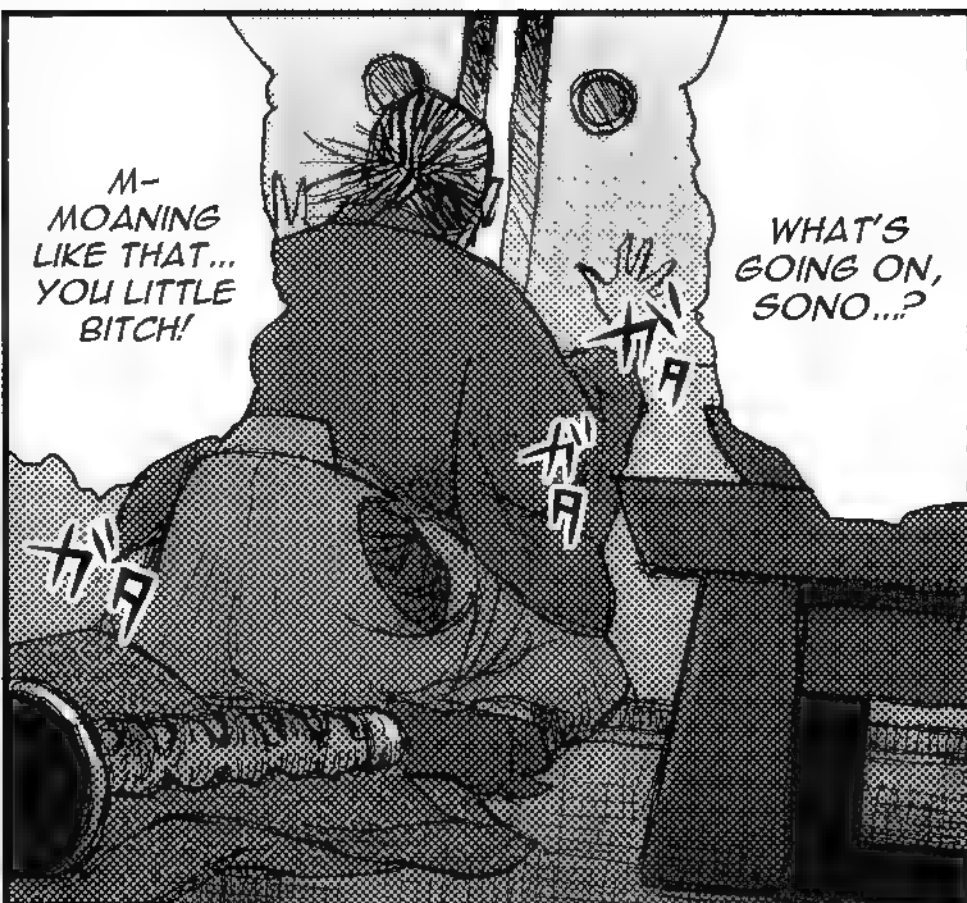
HIII!

HIIN!

M-
MOANING
LIKE THAT...
YOU LITTLE
BITCH!

WHAT'S
GOING ON,
SONO...?

SFX:
Smack,
smack,
smack



SFX:
Glare



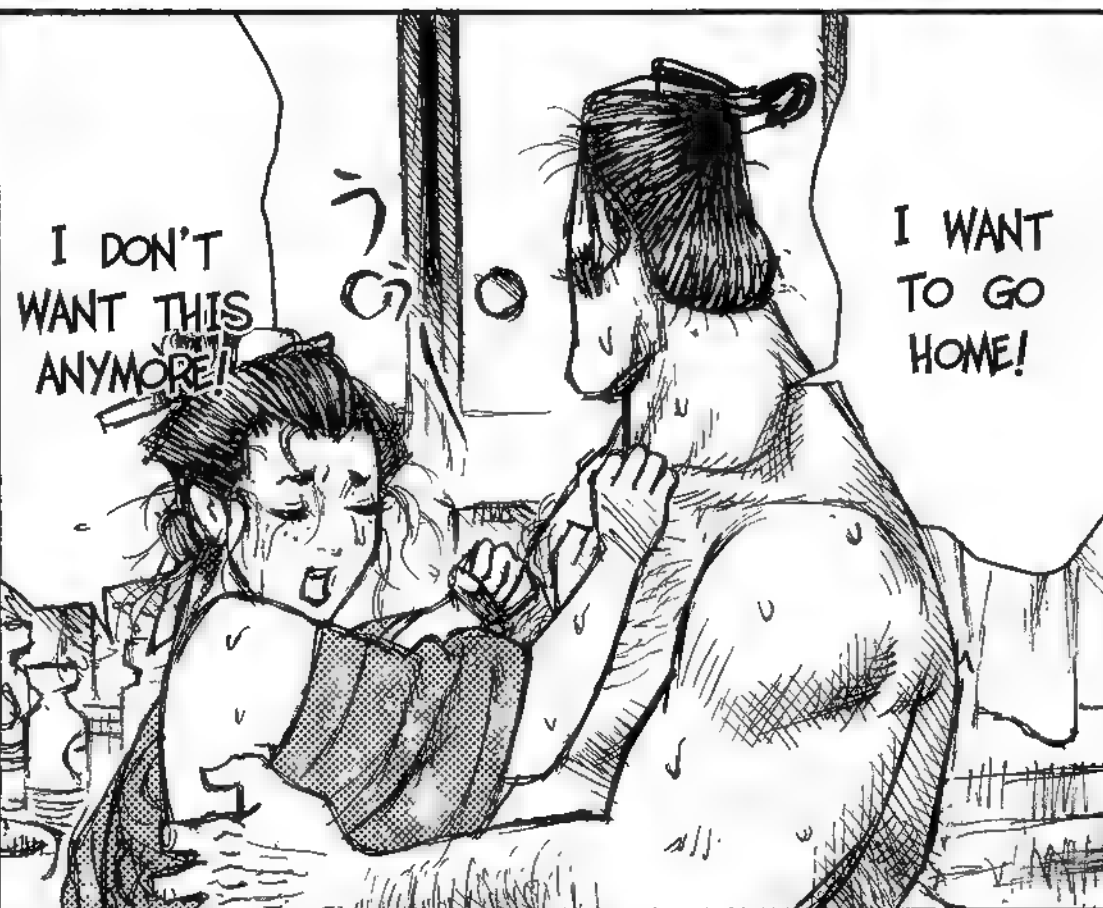


SFX:
Smack,
wham!



SFX:
Grab

NOT
YET,
SONO.
YOU'VE
GOTTA
ENDURE
THIS.



SFX:
Uuuhhh

I WANT
TO GO
HOME!



SFX:
Hiiiiinn...

HE... WAS
GLARING
AT ME...



SFX:
Gulp,
whine

PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME!



SO
THAT'S
IMU-
RAYA?



ALRIGHT,
I WON'T
LET THEM
GET AWAY,
SIR!

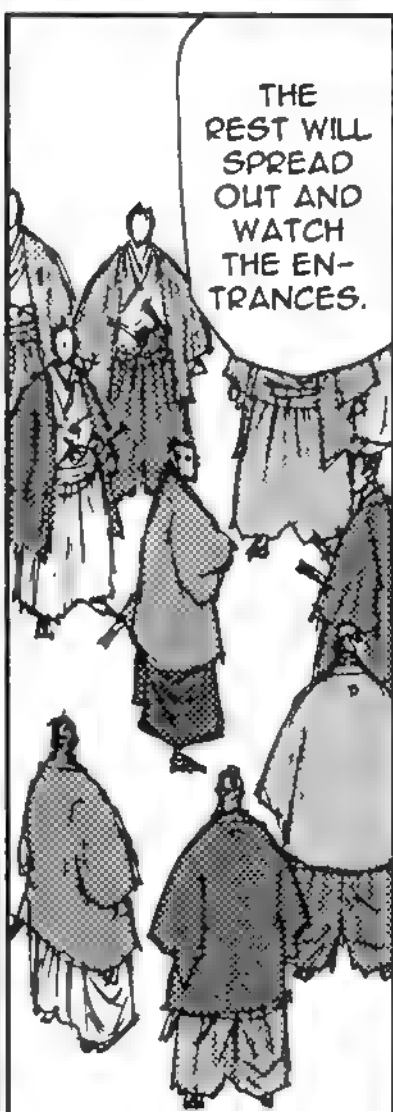
TAIL
THOSE
TWO AS
WELL.

EIGHT MEN
WENT INTO
THE STORE,
BUT TWO
LEFT FAIRLY
QUICKLY.



THERE
MIGHT BE
THE CHANCE
THAT WE
CAN'T TAIL
THEM, SO
WE'LL HAVE
TO APPRE-
HEND THEM
BY FORCE.

BE
PREPARED
JUST IN
CASE
SOMETHING
GOES
WRONG.

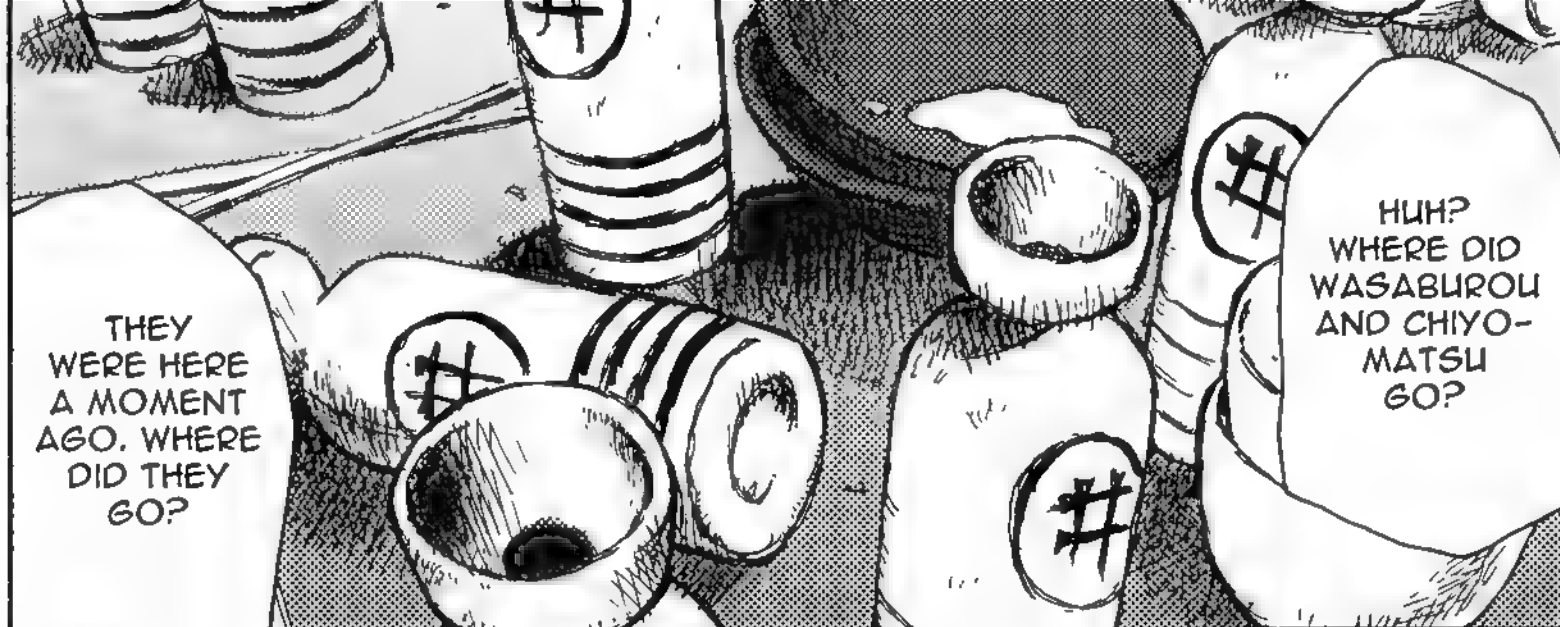


THE
REST WILL
SPREAD
OUT AND
WATCH
THE EN-
TRANCES.



UNDER-
STOOD.

OKADA-KUN,
TAKE A FEW
MEN WITH YOU
AND GO AFTER
THOSE TWO.



THEY
WERE HERE
A MOMENT
AGO. WHERE
DID THEY
GO?

HUH?
WHERE DID
WASABUROU
AND CHIYO-
MATSU
GO?



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
ICHIZOU?

THEY'LL
FILL THE
BOAT WITH
SHIT AND
TRANSPORT
IT THROUGH
THE RIVER.

WANDERING
AROUND
WITHOUT THE
APPROVAL OF
A SUPERIOR
OFFICER IS
AGAINST
THE RULES,
ISN'T IT?



BOATS?

THEY WENT
TO CHECK
OUT SOME
BOATS.

SFX:
Cuddle



EH?



AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO SEE
SONO?

BRO,
WHAT'S
WRONG?



HM?

IT
SHOULDN'T
BE A PRO-
BLEM IF THEY
REMAIN IN
THE CITY AND
GET BACK
IN TIME.



GET SOME
FRESH AIR
BEFORE YOU
POLLUTE THE
ATMOSPHERE
IN HERE.

THAT
FUCKING
BITCH



SONO IS...
ENTER-
TAINING
ANOTHER
CUS-
TOMER

EH?

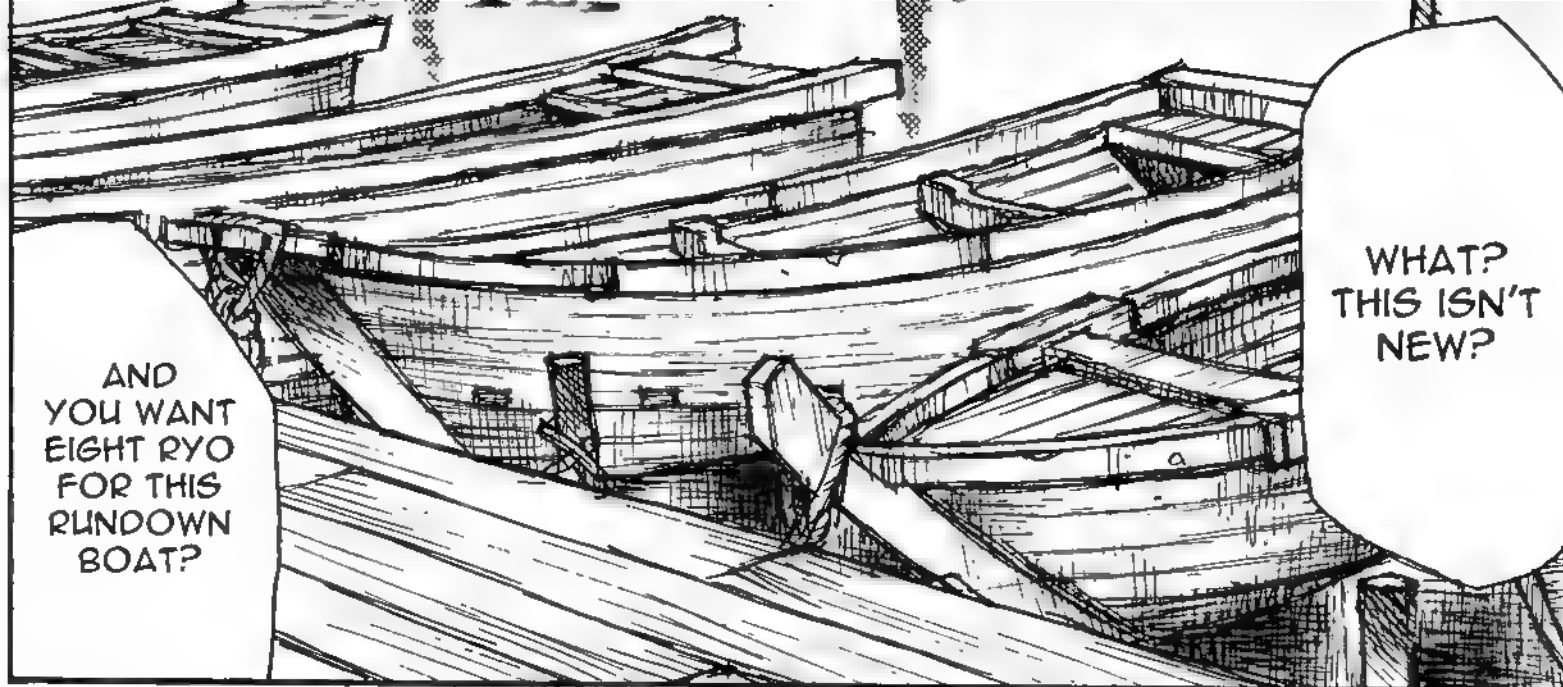


SONO IS A
PROSTITUTE.
OF COURSE
SHE'S GOING
TO SLEEP
WITH ANOTH-
ER MAN



IS
BRO USHI
GONNA BE
ALRIGHT?





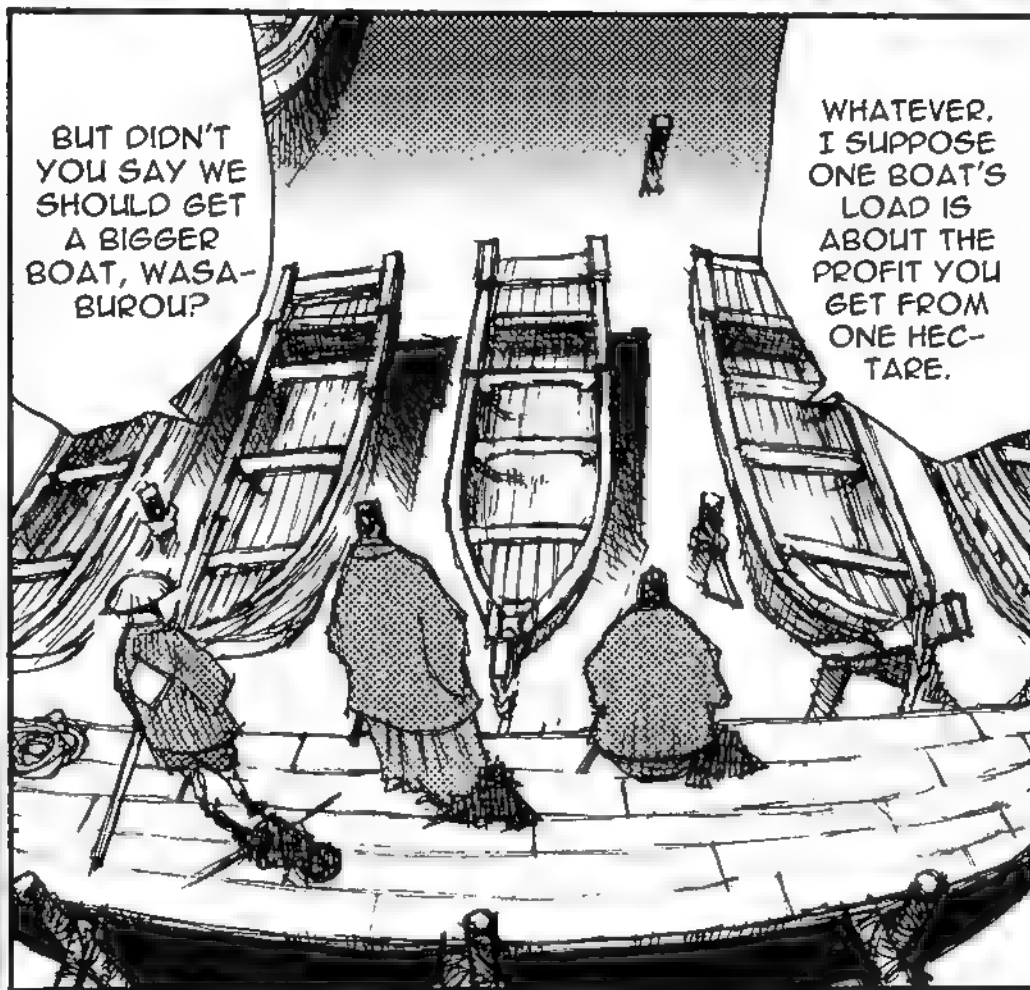
AND
YOU WANT
EIGHT RYO
FOR THIS
RUNDOWN
BOAT?

WHAT?
THIS ISN'T
NEW?



ARE
YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THAT?

THAT'S
WHY WE'LL
BUY TWO
OF THEM,
SO THE
SHOPKEEPER
WON'T
SCREW US
OVER.



BUT DIDN'T
YOU SAY WE
SHOULD GET
A BIGGER
BOAT, WASA-
BUIROU?

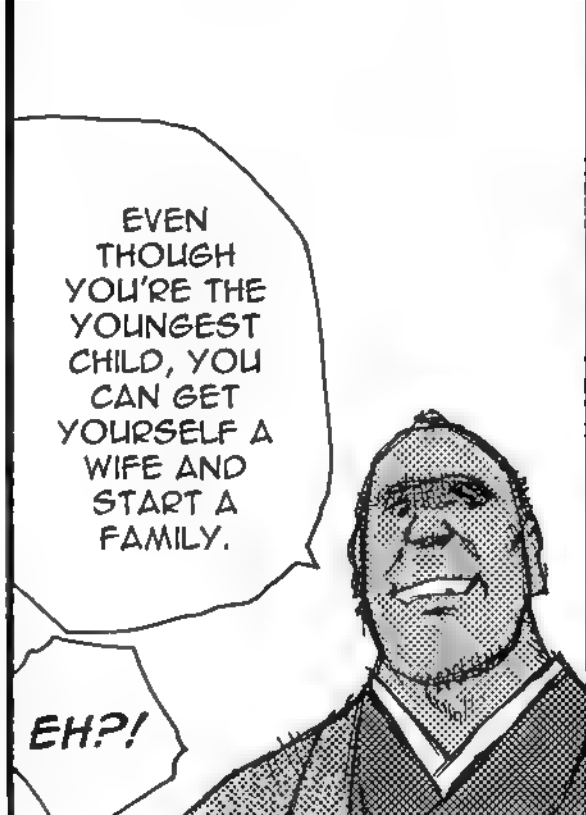
WHATEVER.
I SUPPOSE
ONE BOAT'S
LOAD IS
ABOUT THE
PROFIT YOU
GET FROM
ONE HEC-
TARE.



WOW,
WASABUIROU.
THAT WAY
WE CAN DO
IT EASILY.

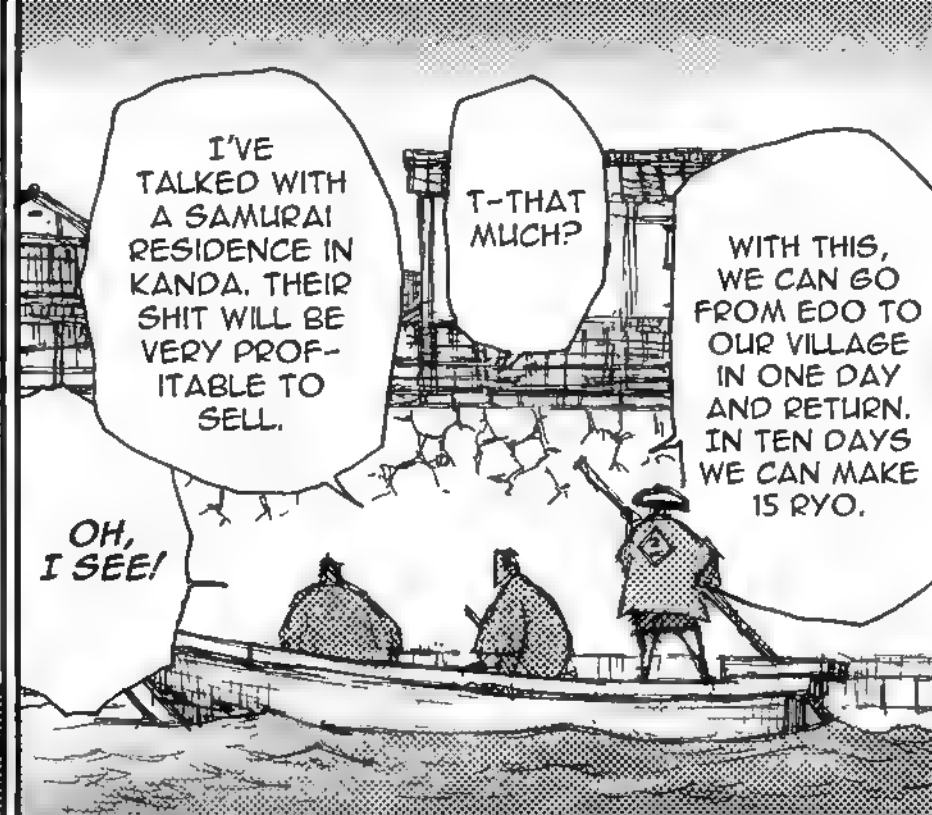
WANNA
TRY OUT
THE BOAT,
CHIYO-
MATSU?

ON ONE
BOAT YOU
CAN FIT 16
UNITS, WHILE
ON TWO
BOATS YOU
CAN FIT 32
UNITS.



EVEN
THOUGH
YOU'RE THE
YOUNGEST
CHILD, YOU
CAN GET
YOURSELF A
WIFE AND
START A
FAMILY.

EH?!



OH,
I SEE!

I'VE
TALKED WITH
A SAMURAI
RESIDENCE IN
KANDA. THEIR
SHIT WILL BE
VERY PROF-
ITABLE TO
SELL.

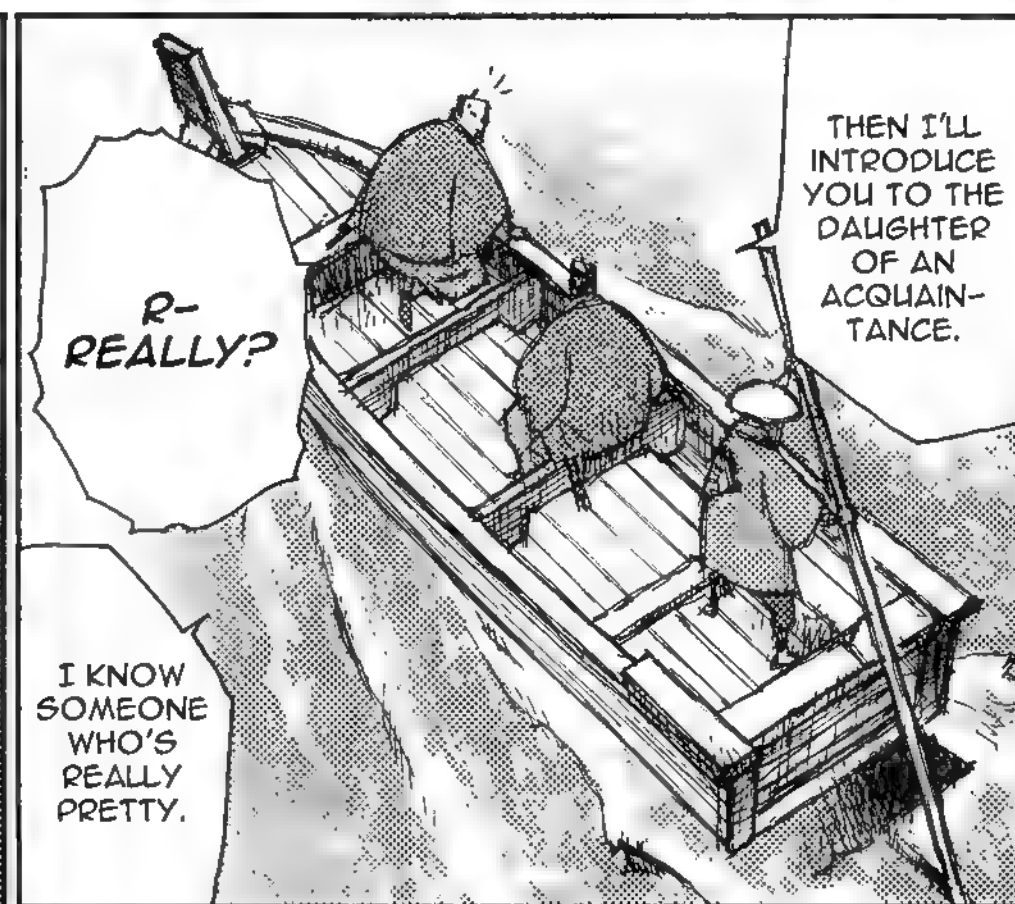
T-THAT
MUCH?

WITH THIS,
WE CAN GO
FROM EDO TO
OUR VILLAGE
IN ONE DAY
AND RETURN.
IN TEN DAYS
WE CAN MAKE
15 RYO.



A BRIDE,
HUH?

I'M AL-
READY
FEELING
PRETTY
SHY.



R-
REALLY?

I KNOW
SOMEONE
WHO'S
REALLY
PRETTY.

THEN I'LL
INTRODUCE
YOU TO THE
DAUGHTER OF
AN ACQUAIN-
TANCE.

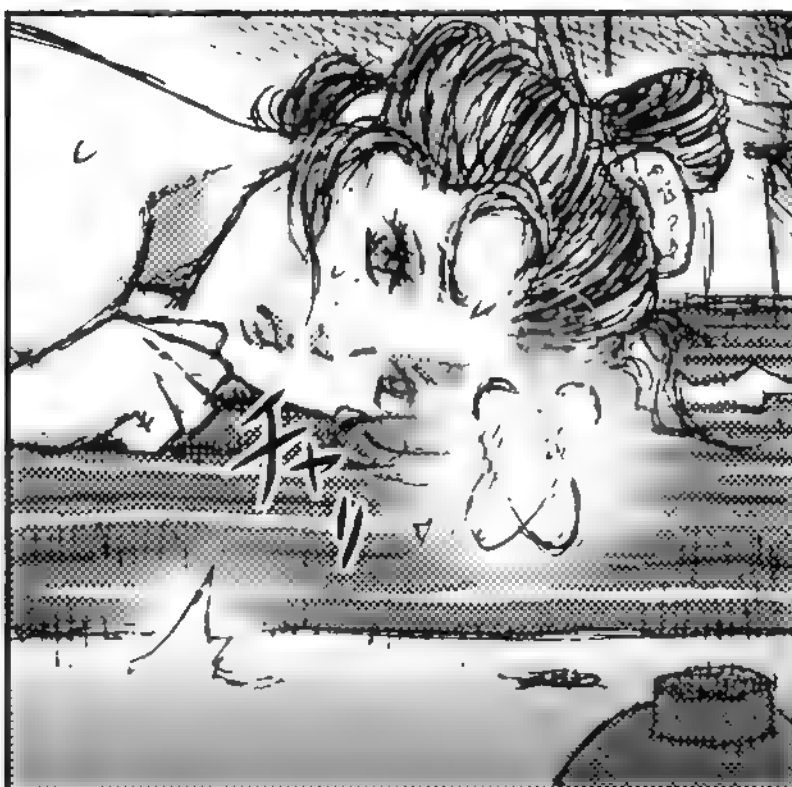
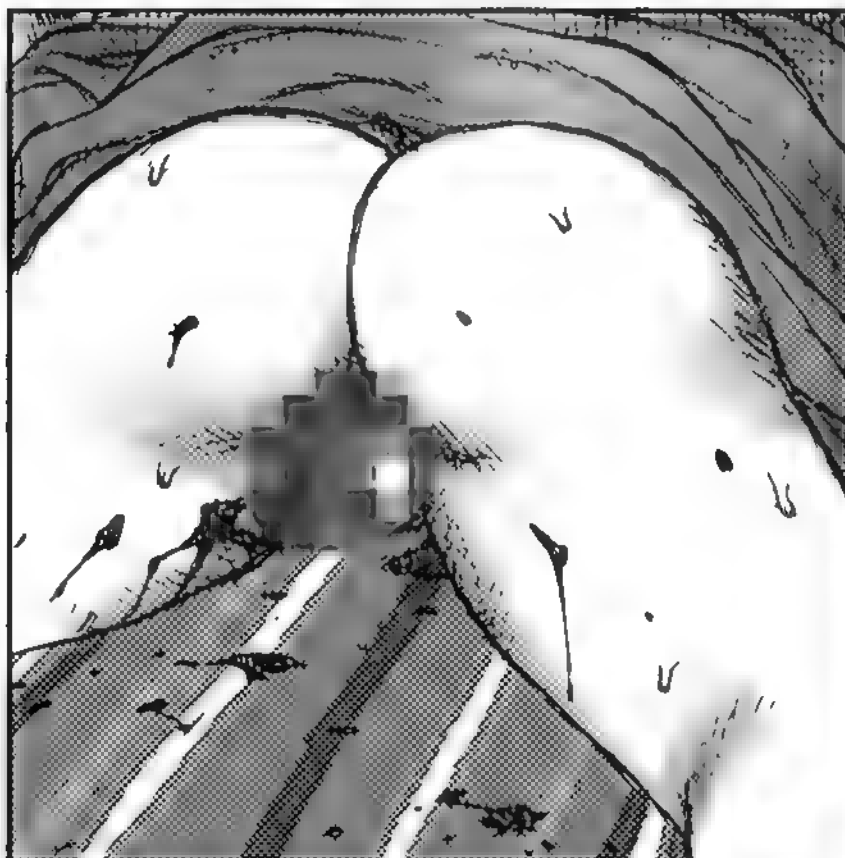


YEAH.

IT'S THEM,
RIGHT?



SFX:
Gulping



SFX:
Ching









HM?

S-SIR!
SOMEONE
CAME OUT.



YOU'RE
RIGHT. YOU
KNOW THESE
STREETS
INSIDE AND
OUT. I'LL
LEAVE IT
TO YOU.

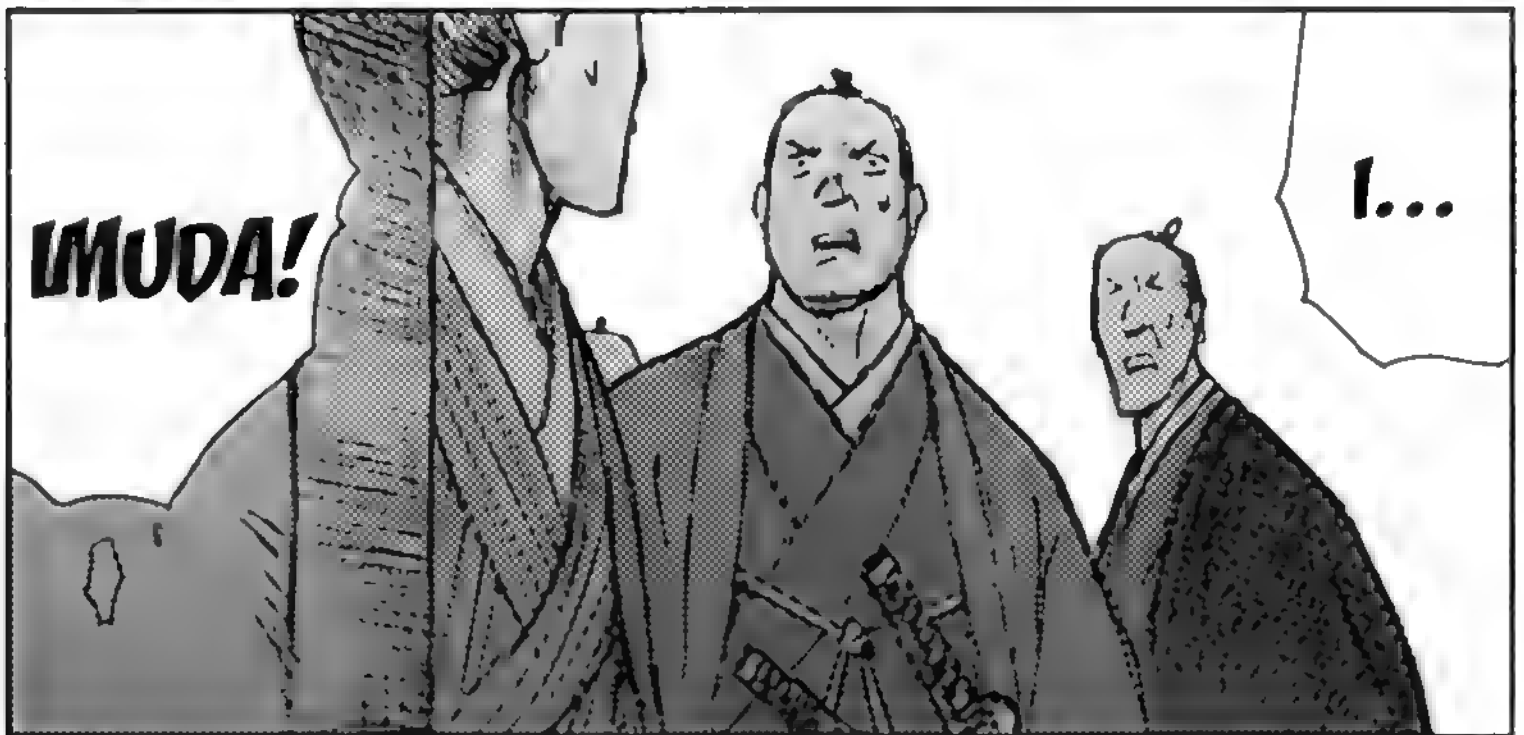
WE'LL
STAND OUT
WITH THIS
MANY PEOPLE.
KAIEDA-DONO,
PLEASE LEAVE
THE SURVEIL-
LANCE TO ME.

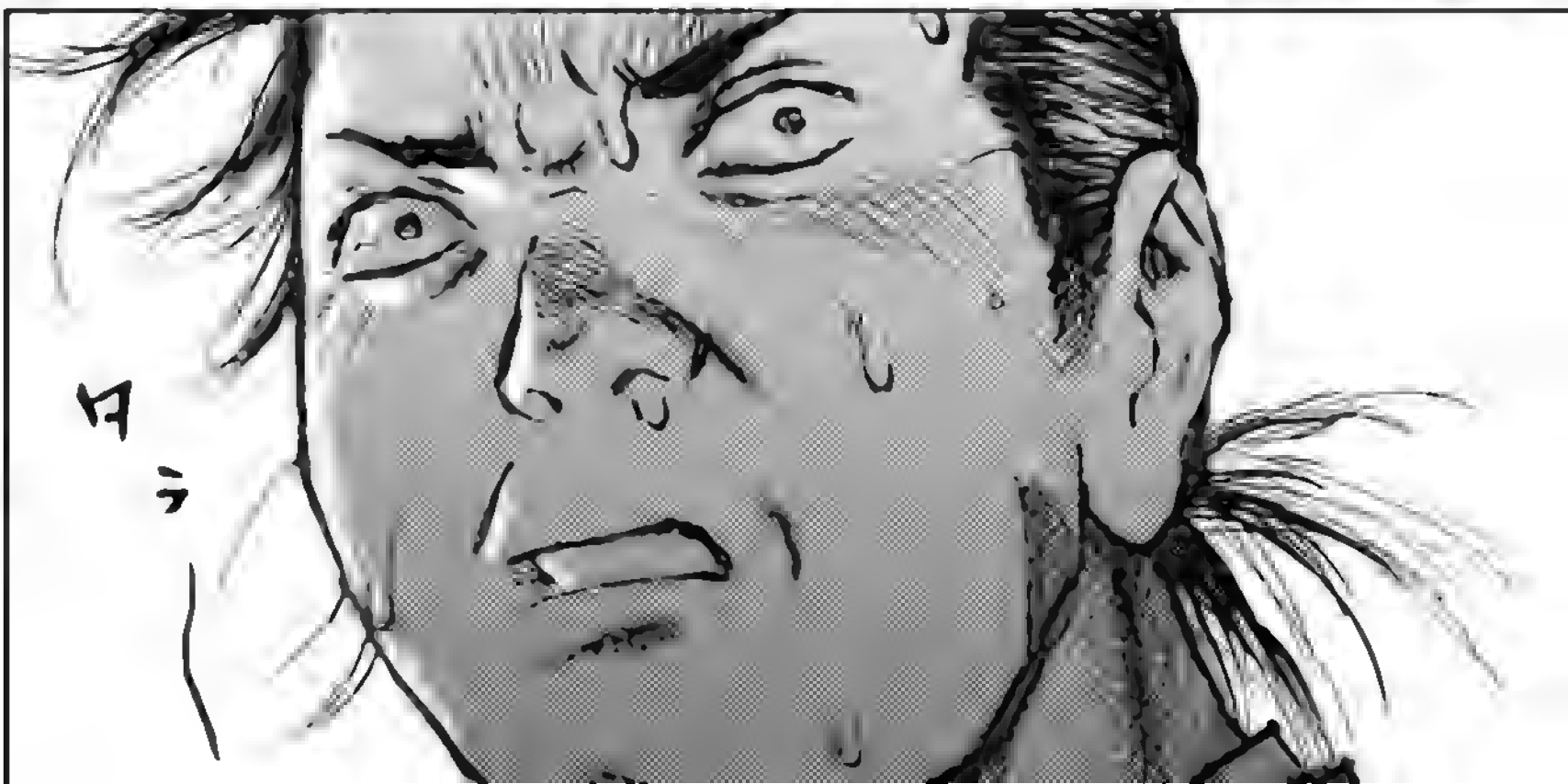
SFX:
Step



SFX:
Thud







SFX
Swearing

SFX:
Wham!



WHY DIDN'T
YOU SAY THAT
IMUDA WAS
IN THERE?!

YOU
BASTARD!



UH!

SFX:
Glare



HE DIDN'T
MENTION
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
SAMURAI
THAT JUST
CAME OUT.

I... I'VE
ONLY
HEARD
ABOUT THE
PEASANT
SAMU-
RAIS...



LET THE
RONIN
OUT
THERE
KNOW
THAT AS
WELL.

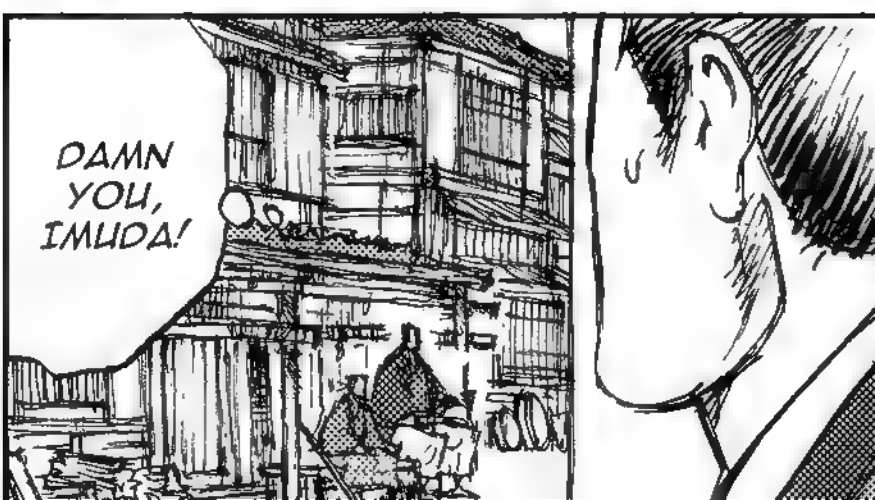
UNDER-
STOOD.

TELL OUR
COMRADES
TO BE
READY TO
STORM IN
AT ANY
MOMENT.



WAIT,
LET'S SEE
HOW THIS
PANS
OUT.

WHAT DO
WE DO,
KAIEDA-
DONO?



DAMN
YOU,
IMUDA!



SFX:
Flinch

IF YOU
WANT TO
LIVE.

YOU
BETTER
NOT MAKE
ANY FUNNY
MOVES







AM I
WRONG?

YOU'VE
BROUGHT
THIS ALL
UPON
YOUR-
SELF.



HOW DO
YOU FEEL
ABOUT
SONO?

I'LL
ASK
YOU...



WHICH
MEANS,
THAT YOU
ACTUALLY
FEEL THE
OPPOSITE.

YOU HAVE
LASHED
OUT AT
SONO...



TRYING
TO DO?

WHAT
IS HE...

W-Woah...

**YOU'RE
IN LOVE
WITH HER!**

**I KNEW
IT...**

**SINCE WHEN?
SINCE YOUR
EYES MET?**

**YOU... OUT
OF ALL WOMEN,
YOU'VE FALLEN
FOR A PROSTITUTE.**

**ARE YOU
SAYING THAT
YOUR EYES DON'T
EVEN LOOK AT
OTHER WOMEN
ANYMORE?**

**THIS
IS A
TRAP.**

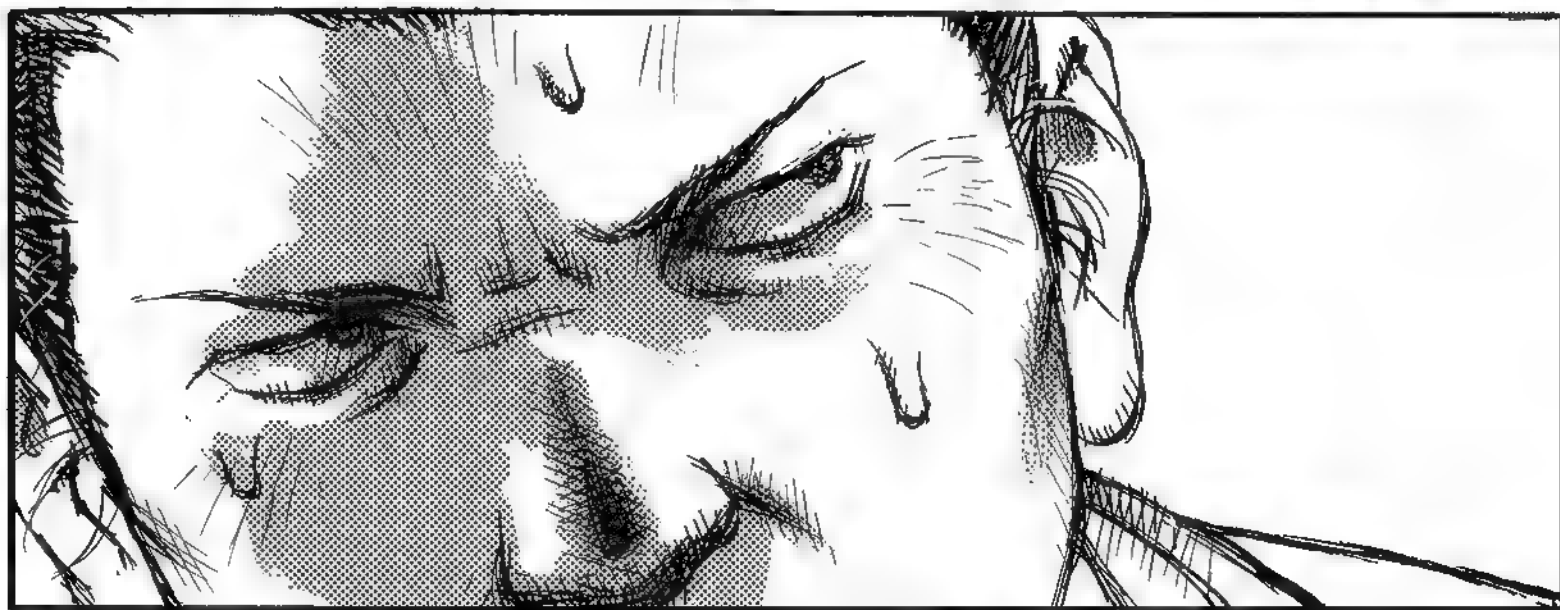
**I
MUSTN'T
GET
TEMPTED...**



MM-HM...
FIGURES...



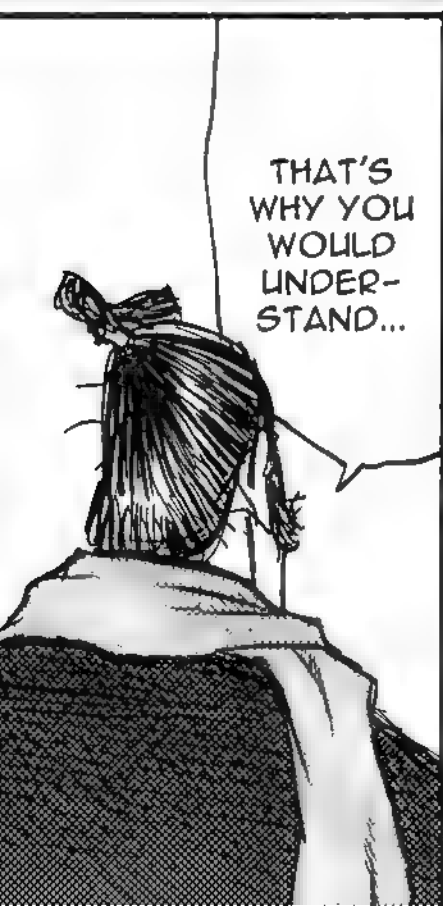
WHAT IS
IMUDA
TALKING
ABOUT
WITH THAT
PEASANT
GUERRIL-
LA?



SOME-
THING
BEAUTI-
FUL.

LOVE
IS





THAT'S
WHY YOU
WOULD
UNDER-
STAND...





**HOW
GRAVE
IS THE
SADNESS
OF LOSING
SOMEONE
YOU
ADORE!**

SFX:
Eyes
turning
red



**I CAN
CLEARLY
SEE HIS
BLOOD
LUST!**

**IT'S
BLOOD
LUST!**

予測するのではない……
敵の殺意から
知るのだ

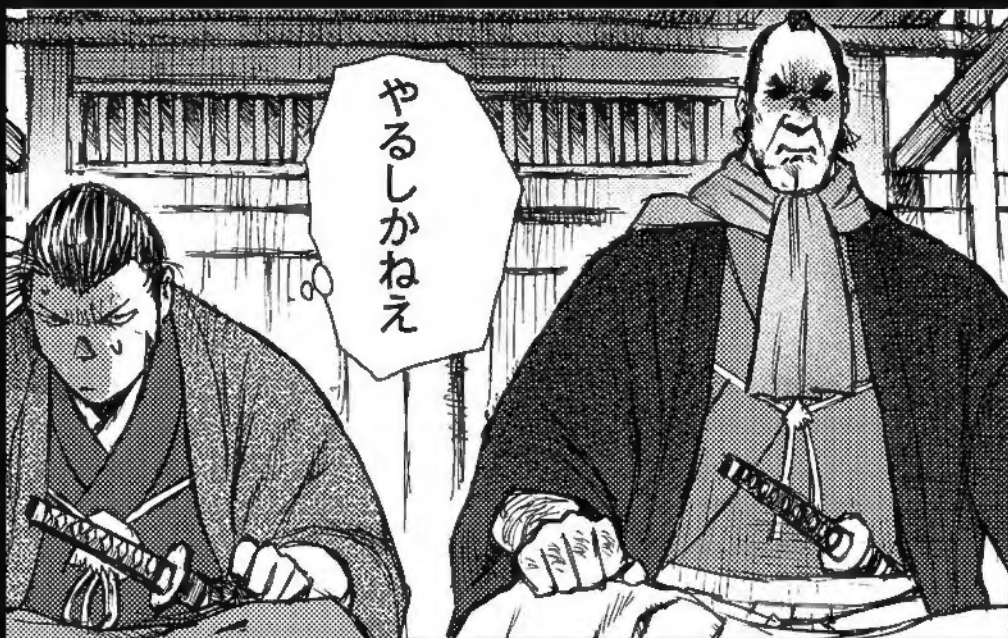


しかし……んなこと
オラに出来るだか……



月刊コミック乱(毎月27日発売)
絶・賛・連・載・中!!

やるしかねえ



勝ち目など皆無……侍の権化のような男と対峙することになった丑五郎に起死回生の一手はあるのか!?
そして追われる身となった一撃必殺隊に新たな犠牲者が……単行本『いちげき』第③巻は来春発売予定!!



いちげき 2

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